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INSPECTOR KOZABURO HIMURO

Kozaburo Himuro is the reclusive head of Special Unit A (aka the Crypt). From within his secluded headquarters, Himuro uses his genius intellect and understanding of the criminal mind to help solve the most heinous and bizarre cases. Due to mysterious events in his past, he is incapable of leaving the Crypt to face the world and his own personal demons.

DETECTIVE KURUMI AYAKI

As Inspector Himuro's eyes and ears outside the Crypt, Kurumi Ayaki helps investigate the gruesome crimes assigned to Special Unit A. Although completely out of her element, Ayaki's heart and determination help compensate for her lack of practical experience. It is Ayaki's emotional tenacity combined with Himuro's cold logic that may be the team's greatest asset.

Previously in REMOTE...

Former meter maid Kurumi Ayaki's stint with the Metropolitan Police Department's Special Unit A has proven to be anything but dull. Working directly under the reclusive Inspector Himuro Kozaburo, Ayaki aides him in his efforts to solve the city's most heinoua crimes. From killer clowns to mad bombers to lethal stalkers, no crime is too bizarre, no criminal too crafty.

Recently, Kurumi has begun to show signs of becoming a competent detective in her own right. More and more she is relying on her instincts and reflexes when the situations grow dire. She handled heraelf admirably during the Blood Pond Spa murders. But now she finds herself in the darkened rooms of the infamoua "Ghost Building," along with a dead body and five auapects. Each of them has an airtight alibi, but one of them is certainly the murderer.

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VOL. 9
Contents

File 79

Murder in the Ghost Building. 007
Witness

File 80

Murder in the Ghost Building. 027
Entangled Motives

File 81

Murder in the Ghost Building. 047
Trick in The Dark

File 82

Murder in the Ghost Building. 067
Rose Thorn

File 83

A House with the Smell of Death. 089
House in the Woods

File 84

A House with the Smell of Death. 109
Tea Mystery

File 85

A House with the Smell of Death. 129
Suspects

File 86

A House with the Smell of Death 149
Poison

File 87

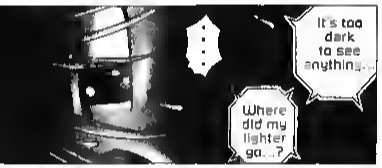
A House with the Smell of Death. 169
Invitation

File 88

A House with the Smell of Death. 189
Another Mystery

File 89

Marathon Girl 209
Resignation



FILE 79
MURDER IN THE GHOST BUILDING
WITNESS

THERE'S A WOMAN... SHE'S BEEN STABBED IN THE CHEST!
SHE'S DEAD.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, INSPECTOR?
EEEEEK!!
RIGHT!
THE PHONES...
カチッ
カチッ
カチッ
!!
TELL EVERYONE WHO HAS A CELL PHONE TO SHINE IT IN THE SAME DIRECTION.
THEY SHOULD GIVE OFF MORE LIGHT THAN A SINGLE LIGHTER.

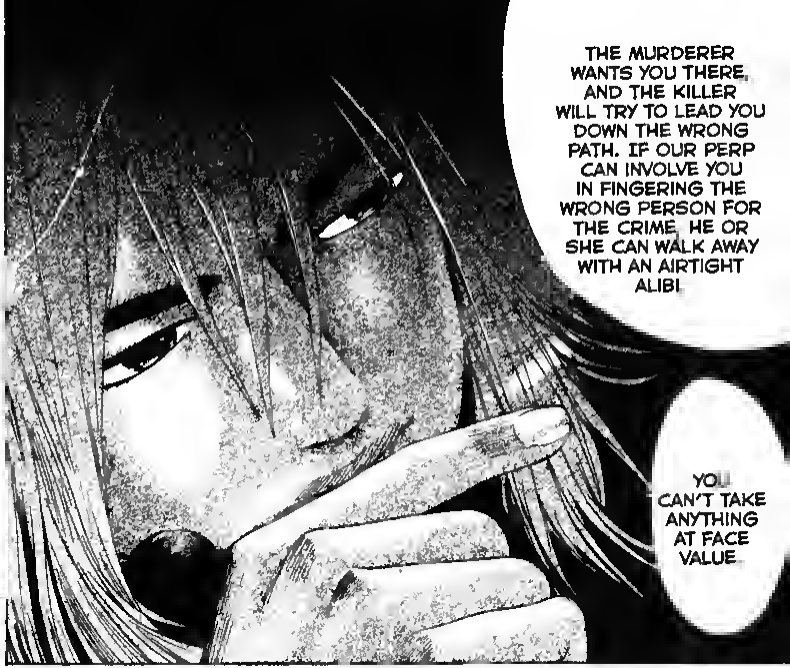
STAY CALM! YOU ACT LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN A DEAD BODY.
TSK
First, tell me everything you see Don't spare any detail
WELL... UH... SHE'S DEAD...
I think you covered that
That's why I referred to her as a dead body
How long does it look like she's been there?
Was she killed recently?
UM... UH...

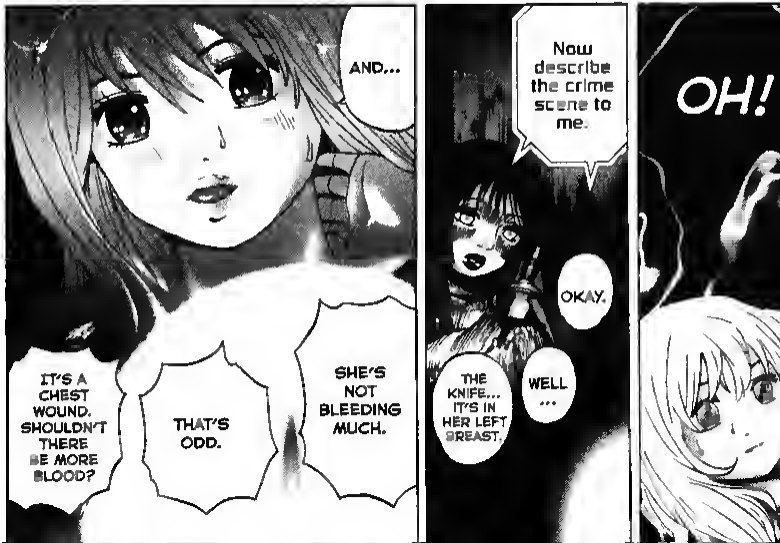
Are we clear?
In the meantime you check the bleeding
Have your fiancé bring the flashlight immediately!
WHAT?
Good! Now ...
OH... OKAY...
KIYOTAKA! SHINGO, FIND THE FLASHLIGHT FOR ME!
...feel the blood!

You don't have to use your hand.
Use a handkerchief or something, and check the viscosity.
If the body is old, the blood will be coagulated.
HEH.
NO WAY!!
I-I COULDN'T!
YUCK...
!!
OH!
Is the blood fresh..
..or congealed and sticky?

I MEAN, WE HEARD HER SCREAM.
OF COURSE...
Then this girl was murdered recently.
IT DOESN'T FEEL STICKY... AT ALL.

T-TOYING?
That's right.
You can't jump to conclusions like that.
The murderer invited you, a police officer, and challenged you to stop him from committing a crime.
He's toying with you.


THE MURDERER WANTS YOU THERE, AND THE KILLER WILL TRY TO LEAD YOU DOWN THE WRONG PATH. IF OUR PERP CAN INVOLVE YOU IN FINGERING THE WRONG PERSON FOR THE CRIME, HE OR SHE CAN WALK AWAY WITH AN AIRTIGHT ALIBI.
YOU CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING AT FACE VALUE.


AND...
IT'S A CHEST WOUND. SHOULDN'T THERE BE MORE BLOOD?
THAT'S ODD.
SHE'S NOT BLEEDING MUCH.
Now describe the crime scene to me.
OKAY.
WELL ...
THE KNIFE... IT'S IN HER LEFT BREAST.
OH!

NOT BLEEDING MUCH?!
HMM.
I MEAN, STABBED IN THE HEART, SHE'D BLEED LIKE CRAZY.
REALLY?
...It would account for the lack of bleeding.
THAT MAKES SENSE, I GUESS
She may have been killed another way
A TRICK?
Yes...
If the body was stabbed right after her death...
HEART?!

Did you say she was stabbed in the heart?
YES. THE KNIFE IS IN THERE PRETTY DEEP.
I SEE...
.....
WHAT?
THE HEART IS MOSTLY MUSCLE TISSUE.
WHEN PUNCTURED, SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T BLEED BECAUSE THE MUSCLE HOLDS ON TO THE KNIFE.
WHAT IS IT?
UNLESS YOU PULL THE KNIFE OUT.
!!

AND ...
...THAT'S AN IMPORTANT CLUE.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE CAROTID ARTERY BLEEDS EXTENSIVELY IF SLASHED.
THE BLOOD SPRAY WOULD SPATTER OVER EVERY-THING
THE MURDERER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO AVOID BEING COVERED WITH BLOOD.
A CLUE? WHAT...
YOU OWE ME FOR THIS!
YOU... YOU WANT ME TO TOUCH HER?!
How's the body's temper-ature?
OH...?
SHE'S... SHE'S WARM!
Officer ...
Can you think of another way to check her temper-ature?

NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS, INSPECTOR!
WHAT KIND OF A QUESTION IS THAT?!
Sigh! Just answer me.
WHAT?!
When did you have your last period?
I'M...I'M ON IT NOW, ALL RIGHT?!
I see...
A WOMAN'S BODY TEMPERATURE CHANGES BEFORE AND AFTER OVULATION.
SO ACCORD-INGLY...
IF YOU FELT SHE WAS WARM...
...HER BODY'S TEMPERATURE WOULD BE AT LEAST 35 DEGREES.
...I'D ESTIMATE YOUR BODY TEMPER-ATURE AT ABOUT 36 DEGREES CELCIUS RIGHT NOW.
CONSIDERING THE WEATHER, AND FACTORING IN THE RATE AT WHICH HER BODY WOULD COOL...I'D ESTIMATE SHE'S BEEN DEAD FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES.
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING.

THESE FIVE PEOPLE ALL HAVE PERFECT ALIBIS, DON'T THEY?
Then she really was murdered when we heard the scream?
POSSIBLY.
SO SAD...
HERE'S YOUR FLASHLIGHT, KURUMI!
OH! THANKS.
RIGHT. BUT ONE OF THEIR ALIBIS IS *TOO* PERFECT!
BUT WHO?!

Good! Let's begin the investigation.
Ask if any of the five knows the victim.
YES, SIR!
SO...DO ANY OF YOU...
...KNOW THIS WOMAN?
WHAT?!

!
HMM.
INSPECTOR... EVERYONE SEEMS REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT ME ASKING THAT...

ONE OF THE FIVE IS THE KILLER. HE'LL TRY TO MISLEAD YOU.
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
I MEAN...THEY WERE ALL WITH ME WHEN WE HEARD THE SCREAM...
It looks like we were right about the murderer needing you there as a witness.
NEEDING ME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'd presume all five of them have some connection to the dead woman.
YES!
I AGREE!

That's right. The murderer was with you.
WOULDN'T BEING WITH A COP...
...AT THE TIME OF A MURDER BE THE PERFECT ALIBI?
file.79 END

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METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
UNSOLVED CASE REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Case file number
COR-013

Previous officer assigned: Officer C. Uylo

Current officer assigned: Officer K. Ayaki

Investigation status

Officer Ayaki reporting.

Himuro sent me to investigate the mysterious death of a nurse. I narrowed down the suspects to five people, but the problem is that they each have a solid alibi—they were with me at the time of death!

I've got to solve thia case soon, because Shingo and I need to find a new place to live. We've found a great house with a low rent and a location that can't be beat. So what's the problem? Our real estate agent has suddenly been poisoned and everyone in the landlord's family has a motive. Looks like a new lease will heve to wait...unless we sign it in blood.

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ART_BY:TETSUYA_KOSHIBA

EXPLICIT CONTENT

PARENTAL ADVISORY

EXPLICIT CONTENT

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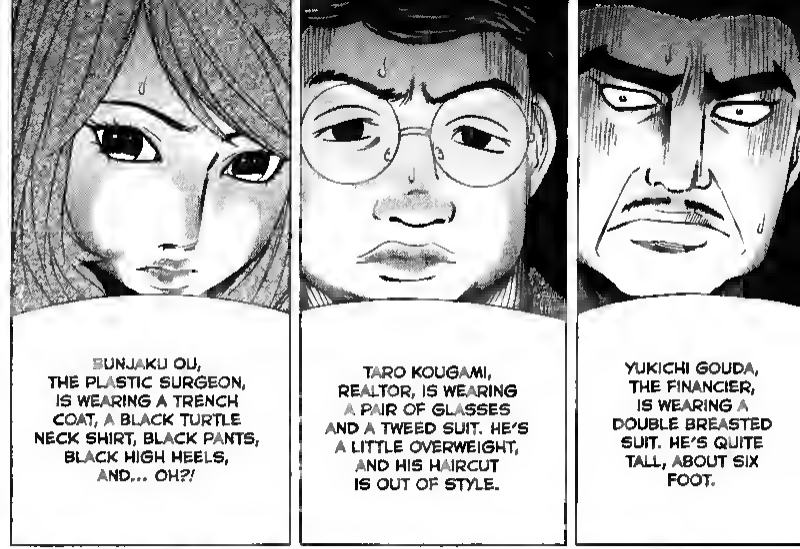
...there were five suspicious looking people already there...
When I arrived at the building to investigate the call...
"Someone will die at 12:00 a.m. in the ghost building."
...all summoned there under threat of black mail.
FILE 80
MURDER IN THE GHOST BUILDING
ENTANGLED MOTIVES
We found the body of a young woman...
...stabbed in the heart.
A WOMAN'S SCREAM!!
Black invitation
When we were heading to the top floor following the invitation's instructions...
EEEEEEE!
Inspector Himuro was positive...
ONE OF THE FIVE IS THE KILLER.

I MEAN...THEY WERE ALL WITH ME WHEN WE HEARD THE SCREAM...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
...that one of the people summoned there had planned everything.
That was the murderer's plan...
WHAT?!
Wouldn't being with a cop at the time of a murder make the perfect alibi?

!!
...
KU... KUMI-KO.
!!
KU ...
KUMIKO?

KUMIKO KONDO... A NURSE AT MY CLINIC.
THAT'S RIGHT.
YES ...
IN EXCHANGE FOR SERVICES.
NURSE?
THIS GIRL WORKED FOR YOU?
RIGHT... PLASTIC SURGERY.
SHE WAS MY FINEST WORK.
SHE WAS... RATHER UNATTRACTIVE WHEN I MET HER
WHAT? YOU MEAN...

ALL RIGHT, AYAKI ...
YOU NEED TO USE ALL YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION FROM HERE ON.
TELL ME EVERY DETAIL ABOUT THESE PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW MINUTE.
OKAY... I'LL TRY.
FIRST, KAORU MAI-KAWA, THE BEAUTICIAN.
WH-WHAT? WHAT ABOUT ME?
SHE'S WEARING A STRIPED KNIT SWEATER...
...A BLACK MINI SKIRT, A PAIR OF STOCKINGS, AND BLACK BOOTS.
GOOD! DESCRIBE THE OTHER FOUR JUST LIKE THAT!
Y-yes sir.


SUNJAKU OU, THE PLASTIC SURGEON, IS WEARING A TRENCH COAT, A BLACK TURTLE NECK SHIRT, BLACK PANTS, BLACK HIGH HEELS, AND... OH?!
TARO KOUGAMI, REALTOR, IS WEARING A PAIR OF GLASSES AND A TWEED SUIT. HE'S A LITTLE OVERWEIGHT, AND HIS HAIRCUT IS OUT OF STYLE.
YUKICHI GOUDA, THE FINANCIER, IS WEARING A DOUBLE BREASTED SUIT. HE'S QUITE TALL, ABOUT SIX FOOT.

!!
YOU CALLED THE VICTIM, KONDO-SAN...
SHISHI-KURA-SAN!
YOU WHISPERED HER NAME, RIGHT?
I HEARD YOU!
HU... HU-MIKO
...

WHAT ...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T REMEMBER!
I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING THAT...
EVERY CONVERSATION IN THE BUILDING IS RECORDED!
TELL HIM THAT!
SHISHIKURA, IT'S NO USE LYING.
I'VE BEEN RECORDING ALL OUR CONVERSATIONS.
WHA ... SH- SHIT!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!
YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I KNOW A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS WOMAN... KUMIKO.

Even though I knew her beauty was fake...
I thought she was beautiful
BUT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS GOING OUT WITH HER!
A FEW WEEKS AGO, SHE TOLD ME...
...THAT SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY, BECAUSE SHE HAD *TWO* SUGAR DADDIES!
!!
SHE TOLD ME EVERYTHING... BECAUSE SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH ME. *ME!*
SHE SAID ONE WAS A REALTOR, AND THE OTHER WAS A FINANCIER.

YEAH! THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF REALTORS IN THE WORLD!!
H-HEY! ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S ME?!
...WHO HAPPEN TO BE AT THE SCENE WHERE KUMIKO WAS MURDERED... RIGHT?
BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE FINANCIER AND REALTOR...
GOUDA AND KOUGAMI WERE "HELPING" KUMIKO KONDO FINANCIALLY, IN EXCHANGE FOR...
YOU SON-OF-A—
YOU LITTLE ...!
KNOCK IT OFF OR I'LL ARREST ALL OF YOU RIGHT NOW!
STOP... STOP!
GET OFF ME!

!!
AND YOU, MISS BEAUTICIAN ...
I HEARD ABOUT YOU!
WHAT?! WHAT ABOUT ME?!
...KUMIKO SAW YOU WALKING WITH SOME GOOD-LOOKING GUY...
...AND SHE SAID...
...IN FRONT OF THE GUY...
OH... ♡
I HEAR YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY A LOOKER BEFORE, EITHER!
...
BUT AFTER THE SURGERY, YOU BECAME A SNOB AND...

MAIKAWA-SAN! LONG TIME NO SEE! ♡
OH...
HOW ARE YOUR NEW NOSE AND EYES DOING?
NEW? WHAT DOES SHE MEAN BY THAT, KAORU?
OH, HOW DO YOU DO? I'M KUMIKO KONDO.
I'M A NURSE FOR MAIKAWA'S PLASTIC SURGEON.
Ou Plastic Surgery
Kumiko Kondo
Nurse
YOU LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL, MAIKAWA-SAN. ♡

I BET IT'S YOU, EH?
SHE SAID THAT THE GIRL WAS A BEAUTICIAN
KUMIKO TOLD ME ABOUT THAT MEETING.
CALM DOWN, MAIKAWA-SAN.
HEY, OFFICER!
ISN'T THAT A CRIME? LIKE DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER OR SOMETHING.
SCREW YOU, JERK!
...YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH ROOM TO TALK.
BESIDES SHISHIKURA ...

YOU WERE NO ADONIS YOURSELF!
MAKE MY NOSE HIGHER AND...
OR...
WHA... WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
...IS THERE SOME OTHER REASON THAT YOU WANTED TO CHANGE YOUR APPEARANCE?
LIKE MR. REALTOR AND MR. FINANCIER... RIGHT?
♡
TEE HEE!
WELL, ALMOST ALL THE PATIENTS WHO COME TO PLASTIC SURGEONS...
...HAVE SOME SORT OF INFERIORITY COMPLEX.

YOU'LL SUE ME?
GO AHEAD. I DON'T CARE.
WHA ...?!
I'M JUST COOPERATING WITH THE POLICE INVESTI-GATION.
DON'T BLAME ME BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT SECRETS TO HIDE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'D HAVE ANY REASON TO KILL MY OWN NURSE!
!!
H-HEY, DR. OU!
IF YOU SAY ANY MORE, I'LL--

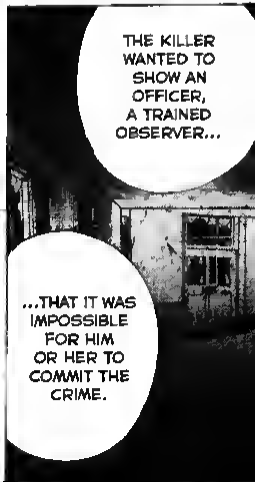
!!
OH, YEAH? REALLY?
THE POLICE WILL FIND OUT EVENTUALLY, SO...
...MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SPILL IT NOW!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
DR. OU'S HUSBAND WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH KUMIKO!
IF THAT'S NOT A MOTIVE FOR MURDER ...
WHAT ABOUT IT, DOC? COULDN'T STAND YOUR HUSBAND FUCKING SOME-ONE YOU MADE BEAUTIFUL?
♡
HEY, OFFICER.
Y-YES?

EVERYONE HAS SOME SECRET THAT WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW...RIGHT?
!
I MEAN ...
HEY EVERYONE... LET'S CALM DOWN.
NONE OF US COULD ACTUALLY BE THE KILLER!
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WHEN WE HEARD THE SCREAM, WE WERE ALL GOING UP THE STAIRS.
WE DON'T NEED TO WASTE OUR TIME BY ARGUING...
WELL...
YOU DO HAVE AN ALIBI, THAT'S TRUE.
RIGHT, OFFICER?
YOU'RE RIGHT...

CONSIDERING THE CORPSE'S CONDITION
...IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE VICTIM WAS RECENTLY MURDERED
AT THE TIME...
...WE HADN'T EVEN ARRIVED ON THE 7TH FLOOR
WAIT A MINUTE!
THEN WHO KILLED HER?
YEAH!
AND WHY WERE WE BROUGHT HERE?
AND WITH A POLICE OFFICER, NO LESS?
I WAS CALLED FOR JUST THAT REASON.

WHAAAAT?!
THE KILLER NEEDED AN ALIBI.

...BY GATHERING PEOPLE WHO HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST KUMIKO.
WHAT'S MORE, HE OR SHE TRIED TO OBSCURE THEIR MOTIVE...


THE KILLER WANTED TO SHOW AN OFFICER, A TRAINED OBSERVER...
...THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM OR HER TO COMMIT THE CRIME.

...“IF YOU WANT TO HIDE A LEAF, HIDE IT IN A FOREST.”
JUST LIKE THE PROVERB SAYS...
THEREFORE...
WHILE YOU WERE ARGUING...
THE KILLER MUST BE ONE OF YOU!!
HE'S WELL AWARE OF HOW THIS “TRICK” IS SUPPOSED TO WORK.
I WAS ON THE PHONE WITH MY PARTNER.
WHAAAAT?!

WHAT?!
I'LL LAY IT ALL OUT FOR YOU...
EVERYTHING ABOUT HOW ONE OF YOU, THE KILLER, CREATED AN ALIBI!!
file.80 END

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I'LL START AT THE BEGINNING.
WHAT?!
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
THE KILLER IS ONE OF US?!
I DO HAVE EVIDENCE.
BUT YOU HAVE NO EVIDENCE!
THAT'S ALSO WHY HE USED A PUBLIC TELEPHONE.
FIRST, WHY DID THE KILLER CALL THE POLICE, PLAYING A TAPE IN REVERSE?
EVEN SO, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THE POLICE COULD HAVE TRACED THE CALL....
AND RUSHED TO THE SCENE TO ARREST HIM.
SIMPLE ...
BARRING THAT, THERE STILL COULD HAVE BEEN A WITNESS WHO SAW THE PERSON MAKE THE CALL AND IDENTIFIED HIM OR HER.
...BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT THE POLICE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND TRACE THE CALL.
FILE 8!
MURDER IN THE GHOST BUILDING
TRICKS IN THE DARK

BY DOING SO, THE KILLER CREATED A TIME LAG UNTIL THE POLICE FIGURED OUT THE MESSAGE.
THAT'S WHY THE KILLER USED A RECORDING IN REVERSE.
THAT TELLS ME SOMETHING ABOUT OUR MURDERER.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH A HIGH IQ, WHO IS VERY CAUTIOUS.

...OR SEND SOME OFFICERS FROM THE SECURITY DEPARTMENT. THAT GIVES THE KILLER A PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE.
THEY'D PROBABLY SEND BY A PATROLMAN ON FOOT ...
...IT'S LIKELY THEY DIDN'T PUT MUCH EFFORT INTO DECIPHERING IT.
OUR SUSPECT KNEW THE POLICE MIGHT CONSIDER THE CALL A CRANK.
SINCE IT'S QUITE VAGUE ..
OUR KILLER IS A PERSON WHO HAS AN UNDERSTANDING OF PSYCHOLOGY.
THAT NARROWS THE LIST OF SUSPECTS.
W-WOW, KURUMI...
YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT...SO CONFIDENT NOW...
ゴクリ..
THAT'S IT.

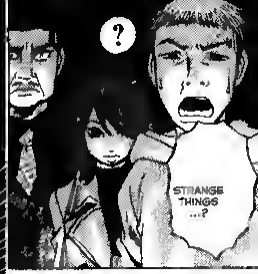
...THE KILLER WOULD HAVE JUST CANCELED IT.
AND OUR SUSPECT...
...THE KILLER WOULD HAVE RE-SCHEDULED THE CRIME.
AND IF THE POLICE TOOK THE THREAT SERIOUSLY AND SET UP TIGHT SECURITY...
OF COURSE, IF THE POLICE DIDN'T RESPOND TO THE INVITATION ...
...AND IF THE TRAINED OBSERVER DIDN'T SHOW UP...
SO CLEARLY...
...HID AMONG PEOPLE WHO HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST KUMIKO.
PEOPLE WHO SEEM TO HAVE A MOTIVE FOR MURDER.
A MOTIVE HIDDEN AMONGST OTHERS!

...ONE OF YOU IS CLEARLY THE KILLER!!
SHOW ME THE EVIDENCE!
THAT'S NOT EVIDENCE AT ALL!
THE HARD EVIDENCE!
THAT'S ALL GUESSWORK AND HEARSAY!
THAT'S
THAT'S BULLSHIT!
.....!!
OUR DEAR OFFICER IS GRASPING AT STRAWS
YOU GOTTA HAVE FINGERPRINTS, OR...
Y--
YEAH!

I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS NONSENSE! I'M GOING HOME
RIGHT
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY TO ME, TALK TO MY LAWYER FIRST.
ME, TOO.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE OF US TO BE THE KILLER!
...WHEN WE WERE GOING UP THE STAIRS, RIGHT?
KUMIKO WAS KILLED...
WAIT!
NO-BODY'S LEAV-ING.
YOU WANT SOLID EVIDENCE? NO PROBLEM!

FIRST...
ごくり..
WHA...
WHAT?!
HERE ...
THIS "BLACK INVITATION" YOU RECEIVED.
Black invitation
IT SAYS THE SAME THING IN EVERYONE'S LETTER, RIGHT?
S-SO...?
GOOD.
YOU ADMITTED IT.
NOW...
THERE ARE SOME STRANGE THINGS IN THIS LETTER!

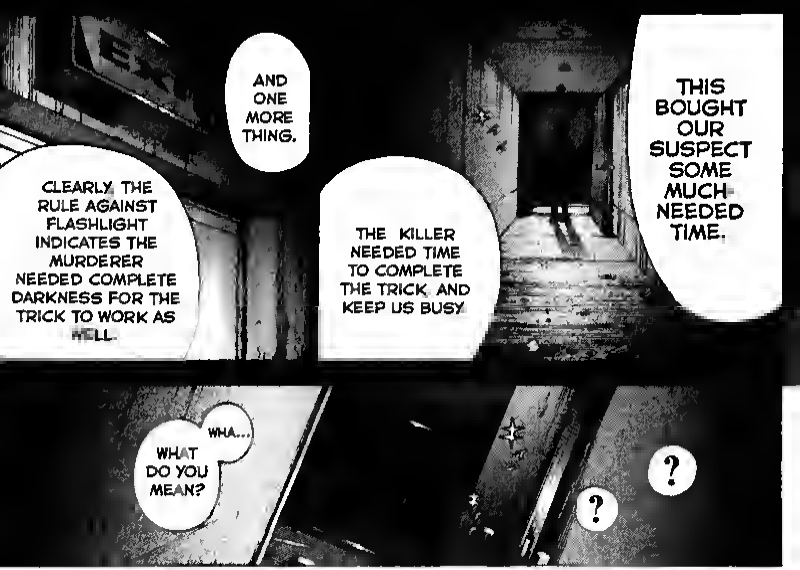
FOR EXAMPLE
Arrive at the ghost building at 11:45PM.
Start from the 1st floor at 11:50PM.
And come to the room located in the east end of the 7th floor!
THOSE ARE RATHER PRECISE TIME SETTINGS.
AND
Don't use the emergency stairs!
No flashlight!
No light of any sort is allowed!
VERY STRANGE AND SPECIFIC CONDITIONS.

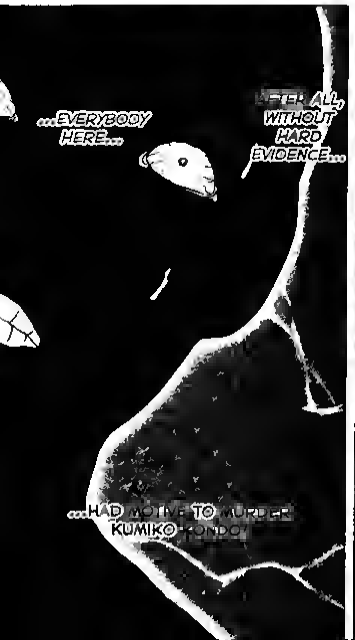


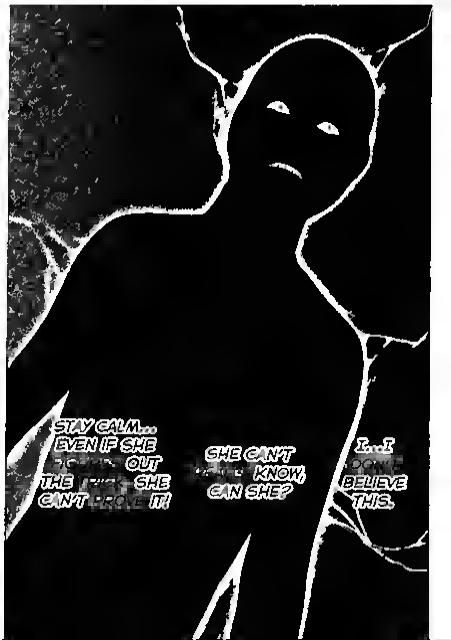
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A SIMPLE INVITATION?

THESE CONDITIONS MUST BE NECESSARY FOR THE TRICK TO WORK.
THE PERSON WHO WROTE THE LETTER, ...
...THE KILLER SET THESE CONDITIONS ON PURPOSE.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY WE WERE ALL TOGETHER AT THE TIME KUMIKO WAS KILLED!
YEAH! EVERYONE'S HERE!
TRICK? WHAT TRICK?
WHAT TRICK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CLEARLY...

...THE KILLER WANTED US TO APPROACH THE CRIME SCENE AS SLOWLY AS POSSIBLE.
IT'D ONLY TAKE 2 TO 3 MINUTES TO GO UP TO THE 7TH FLOOR DURING THE DAY...
AND WHY WAS THE KILLER SO SPECIFIC THAT WE SHOULDN'T USE A FLASHLIGHT?
!!
BY MAKING US GO UPSTAIRS AT MIDNIGHT WITHOUT A LIGHT...
...THE KILLER KNEW WE'D HAVE TO SLOWLY GROPE OUR WAY ALONG.


AND ONE MORE THING.
CLEARLY, THE RULE AGAINST FLASHLIGHT INDICATES THE MURDERER NEEDED COMPLETE DARKNESS FOR THE TRICK TO WORK AS WELL.
THE KILLER NEEDED TIME TO COMPLETE THE TRICK AND KEEP US BUSY.
THIS BOUGHT OUR SUSPECT SOME MUCH-NEEDED TIME.
WHA...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?
?


...EVERYBODY HERE...
...FELL ALL, WITHOUT HARD EVIDENCE...
...HAD MOTIVE TO MURDER KUMIKO [illegible]

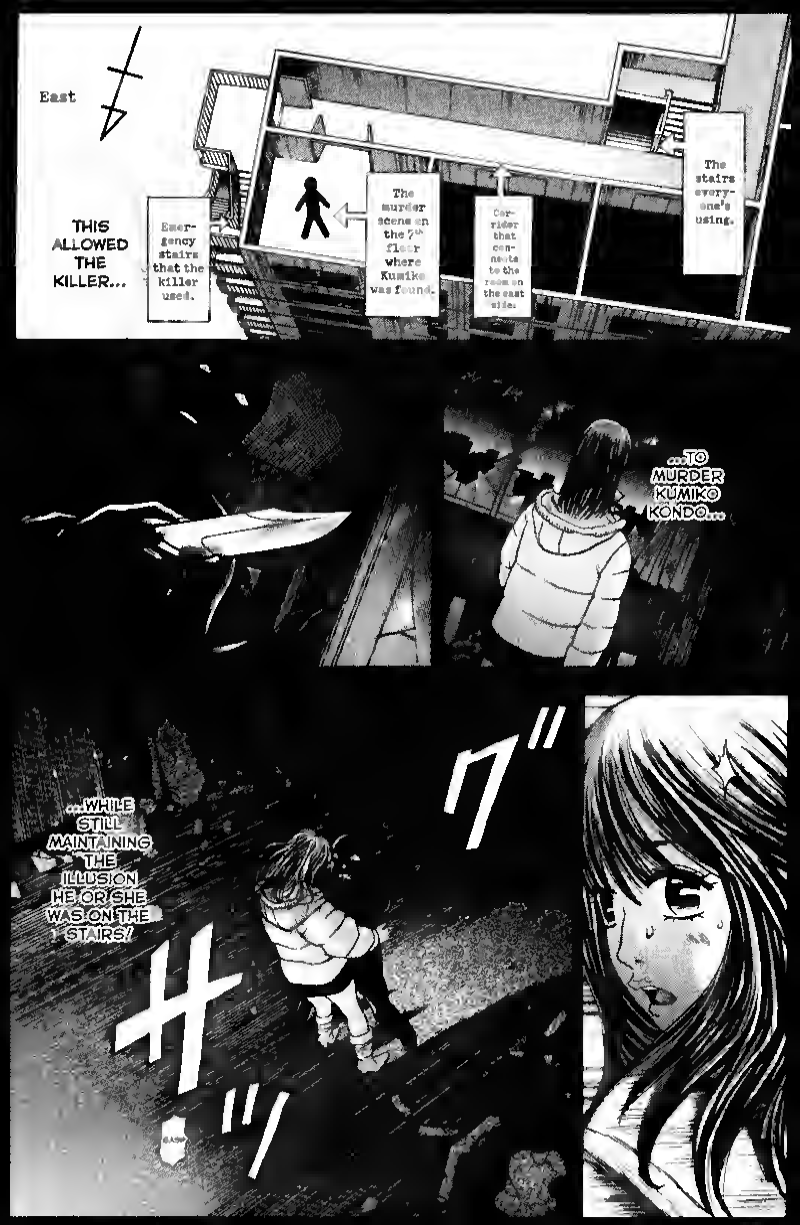

STAY CALM... EVEN IF SHE [illegible] OUT THE [illegible] SHE CAN'T PROVE IT!
SHE CAN'T [illegible] KNOW, CAN SHE?
I...I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.

THE KILLER KNEW THAT HE COULD CREATE AN ALIBI...
A SOLID ALIBI THAT HE WAS WITH FOUR OTHER PEOPLE AND A POLICE OFFICER.
...BY MAKING US COME UPSTAIRS, TAKING OUR TIME.

THERE'S ONLY ONE DIFFERENCE.
THE KILLER ...
...CALLED KUMIKO KONDO HERE AS WELL.
SHE WAS TOLD TO ARRIVE AT THE ROOM ON THE 7TH FLOOR A LITTLE EARLIER THAN THE OTHER FIVE.
HE SENT A SIMILAR LETTER TO HER.

...SHE MUST HAVE ALREADY BEEN ON THE 7TH FLOOR.
WHEN WE STARTED UP THE STAIRS...
MOST LIKELY...
NATURALLY, SHE HAD NO WAY TO KNOW THE FATE THAT AWAITED HER.
SO WE STARTED UP THE STAIRS ...
BUT THEN...
WE [illegible] INTO [illegible] DARKNESS...
...ONE OF US...
...AS WE HEADED TO THE 7TH FLOOR.
...LEAVING OUR FLASHLIGHTS ON THE 1ST [illegible] AS THE LETTER ORDERED.

...SLIPPED AWAY IN THAT DARKNESS.
THE KILLER LEFT THE GROUP, TAKING CARE NOT TO MAKE ANY NOISE...
...USED A SMALL FLASHLIGHT HE OR SHE HAD HIDDEN...
...AND RAN UP THE STAIRS ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE BUILDING.
WHAAAAAT?!
WHA...


East
THIS ALLOWED THE KILLER...
Emergency stairs that the killer used.
The murder scene on the 7th floor where Kumiko was found.
Corridor that connects to the room on the east side.
The stairs everyone's using.
...TO MURDER KUMIKO KONDO...
...WHILE STILL MAINTAINING THE ILLUSION HE OR SHE WAS ON THE 1 STAIRS!
DASH

EEEEEEE! HEEEEELP!! SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KILL MEEEEE!!
...AND PREVENTED TO DRAW US TO THE CORRECT ROOM.
...WAITED INSIDE THE ROOM...
THEN THE KILLER...
FIRST OF ALL ...
THERE'S A REASON THE KILLER NEEDED TO SCREAM.
SO THE KILLER NEEDED TO SCREAM FOR THE VICTIM...
...TO DRAW US TO THE MURDER SCENE.
IT'S QUITE LIKELY THAT SHE COULDN'T SCREAM.
THE FORCE REQUIRED TO DRIVE A KNIFE THROUGH THE RIBS INTO A HEART LIKELY KILLED HER INSTANTLY.
...WHEN THE VICTIM WAS STABBED ...
...THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT SHE'D SCREAM.

...GIVING OUR MURDERER TIME TO SLIP BACK AMONGST OUR GROUP WHILE WE WERE CONFUSED.
THE SCREAM ALSO MADE US PANIC, AND WE CHARGED INTO THE ROOM, EXPECTING THE WORST...
THAT WAY, NO ONE WOULD BE THE WISER AND EVERYONE WOULD ASSUME HE OR SHE HAD BEEN THERE ALL ALONG.
カチッ
スッ
EEEEEK! A CORPSE!!
WHERE'S YOUR LIGHTER, SHANE!?
I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING... IT'S SO DARK!

...POINTS TO JUST ONE PERSON.
ドクン
THE KILLER'S PSYCHOLOGY... AND HOW THE TRICK WAS PERFORMED...

YES, I DO!
O-OH, MY GOD ...!
B-BUT EVEN IF YOUR REASONING IS RIGHT...
...ANY ONE OF US COULD BE THE KILLER!
RIGHT!
YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS!

file.81 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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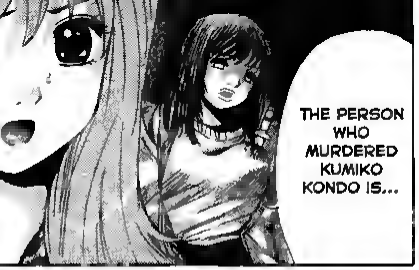
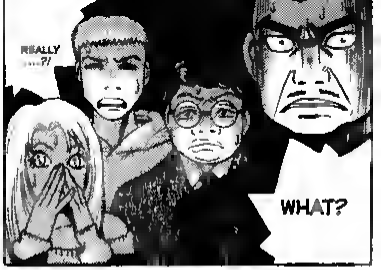

THE PERSON WHO MURDERED KUMIKO KONDO IS...


REALLY ...?!
WHAT?

FILE 8!
MURDER IN THE GHOST BUILDING
BUILDING ROSE THORN
!!
...DR. BUNJAKU OU, THE PLASTIC SURGEON!

DR. OU IS THE KILLER?!

MY HUSBAND IS FROM A THIRD-RATE MEDICAL COLLEGE, AND MAKES LESS THAN A QUARTER OF WHAT I DO! IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S A CATCH!
HAH!
YOU THINK I'D THROW MY LIFE AWAY BECAUSE SOME TRASH WAS SCREWING MY HUSBAND?
SHE COULD HAVE HIM FOR ALL I CARE!
WHY WOULD I THROW MY LIFE AWAY FOR A MAN LIKE THAT?
IT'S RIDICULOUS!

WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
...GOUDA-SAN!
THERE'S PEOPLE GATHERED HERE...
...FAR MORE LIKELY TO KILL SOMEONE.
FOR INSTANCE...
WHY WOULD HE WANT TO INTENTIONALLY DISFIGURE HIMSELF, UNLESS HE WAS HIDING FROM SOMETHING?
MAYBE IT WAS SOME CRIME THAT NETTED THE SEED-MONEY FOR YOUR LENDING BUSINESS, HMM?
BUT HE WANTED ME TO MAKE HIS FACE RUGGED LIKE THIS.
STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
DON'T PLAY COY, GOUDA-SAN.
HE USED TO BE A GOOD-LOOKING GUY, YOU KNOW.
Y...
YOU BITCH!!

BUT YOUR STORY...
...HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CASE AT ALL.
GOUDA-SAN...
I'LL HEAR MORE ABOUT YOUR STORY LATER.
W-WHAAAT?
L-LET GO!
KNOCK IT OFF YOU TWO!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW? YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE FUCKING GIRL FOR CHRISSAKES!
OH, FUCK YOU!
THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND, DR. OU, THAT THE KILLER IS YOU!
YOU'VE GOT NO PROOF OF ANY OF THIS!
YOU SAY I SECRETLY WENT TO THE 7TH FLOOR BEFORE ANYONE ELSE...
...BUT ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE IT! YOU'VE GOT NOTHING!
IF YOU STILL THINK IT WAS ME...
...SHOW ME THE EVIDENCE!
OTHERWISE I'LL SUE YOUR ASS FOR DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER!

...AREN'T YOU, DR. OU?
NICE.
YOU'RE REALLY FULL OF YOURSELF...
...
WHA...
WHAT?
THAT'S... THAT'S...
...YOUR CREATION, WHO WAS ABLE TO STEAL YOUR HUSBAND!
MAYBE PRIDE IS YOUR MOTIVE.
THE MOTIVE FOR KILLING YOUR NURSE THE FAKE BEAUTY...

YOU CAN'T STAND THAT A LITTLE GIRL LIKE ME FIGURED OUT YOUR TRICK, CAN YOU?
IT'S KILLING YOU, ISN'T IT?
DON'T WORRY.
THE ONE WHO FIGURED IT OUT IS A MILLION TIMES SMARTER THAN ME.
HE'S MY BOSS, INSPECTOR HIMURO!
I CAN'T STAND IT ANY-MORE!
KURUMI... STOP!
THE INSPECTOR...
...HAS BEEN LISTENING TO EVERYTHING THROUGH MY CELL PHONE! AND WHEN IT COMES TO BEING CLEVER... WELL, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING ON HIM!
...KURUMI...
STOP PRAISING HIM...
STOP IT.
!!

LISTEN, AYAKI.
THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE THERE...
...ARE THE TWO WOMEN!
THE OTHERS CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE KILLER.
REALLY? WHAT?!
Yes.
Because the scream we all heard...
...was a woman's.
"EEEEK! HELP! SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO KILL ME!"... THAT SCREAM?
Right. That was, most likely...
...the killer's scream. Not the victim's.

THE SUSPECTS ARE NARROWED DOWN TO THE TWO WOMEN!
SO...
SO, I DESCRIBED YOU, DR. OU, AND MAIKAWA-SAN...
YOU... YOU CAN'T KNOW THAT!
IT COULD HAVE BEEN A RECORDING...OR ...
NICE TRY.
YOU KNOW THE KILLER COULDN'T USE A SPEAKER WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVED AND SEALED THE CRIME SCENE...
THEY'D FIND ANY HIDDEN RECORDING DEVICES.
A TRICK LIKE THAT WOULD BE DISCOVERED IN NO TIME.
...TO INSPECTOR HIMURO.
HE KNEW THE TRUTH ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.
UM ... WELL ...

MAIKAWA'S WEARING STOCKINGS AND HIGH-HEELS.
THE KILLER WOULD BE DRESSED TO SUIT THE SITUATION.
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE KILLER...
IT'S BUNJAKU OU.
Bunjaku Ou
What? Why?
WHAT IF YOU HAD TO SECRETLY LEAVE THE GROUP...
...IN TOTAL DARKNESS AND SILENCE?
WE DEPEND ON OUR HEARING WHEN WE CAN'T SEE
SLIGHT FOOTSTEPS WOULD BE HEARD.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WHAT? WHAT?
Think about it, Ayaki

IF SHE HELD HER SHOES AND SNUCK OUT... NO ONE WOULD NOTICE.
THEN HOW DID THE KILLER HIDE THE FOOT-STEPS?
SIMPLE SHE JUST TOOK OFF HER SHOES
Oh!
IF YOU WERE HER, WOULD YOU RUN UP THE RUSTY STAIRS WITH STOCKINGS?
DESERTED BUILDING LIKE THAT FOOTSTEPS WOULD BE HEARD FROM A DISTANCE
SO, THE KILLER ...
NO WAY! THEY'D GET SNAGGED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY!
...MUST HAVE TAKEN OFF HER SHOES AND RUN UP THE CORRI-DOR.

RIGHT.
THAT'S WHY MAIKAWA ISN'T THE KILLER. HER STOCKINGS DON'T HAVE A RUN.
THAT LEAVES DR. OU.
SHE'S OUR KILLER.
DR. OU...
UNLIKE MAIKAWA, YOU.
!!
...ARE WEARING PANTS.
EVEN IF YOU RUN AROUND IN THIS RUINED BUILDING...
...YOU WOULDN'T BE NOTICED AS LONG AS YOU PUT YOUR SHOES BACK ON!

TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF, DR. OU.
I'M SURE THERE ARE TRACES OF DEBRIS THAT SHOW THAT YOU RAN BAREFOOT.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL.
MY CELL-PHONE HAS A HIGH-END MICROPHONE IN IT.
INSPECTOR HIMURO WAS RECORDING ALL OUR CONVERS-ATIONS UNTIL WE GOT HERE.
WE CAN PROVE THAT WE DIDN'T HEAR YOUR VOICE AFTER WE REACHED THE 3RD FLOOR.

HEY, OFFICER ...
SIGH...
OH, WELL...
TOKYO UNIVERSITY. I HEARD THAT HE STUDIED ABROAD, AS WELL.
WHAT?
THAT INSPECTOR HIMURO... FROM WHAT UNIVERSITY DID HE GRADUATE?
...IT LOOKS LIKE MY PRIDE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HURT TOO BAD.
BECAUSE ...
WELL, I THINK I'LL GIVE UP THEN.
I SEE ...

KUMIKO KONDO...
AS A PLASTIC SURGEON ...
H. HOODLUM?
A HOODLUM WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND...
WHY WOULD A WOMAN LIKE YOU DO SUCH A HORRIBLE THING? YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL, HAVE A GREAT CAREER, AND—
DR. OU.
HAH
...WAS REBORN WITH PERFECT BEAUTY!
THAT FRIGHTENED, UGLY COW...
...SHE WAS MY MASTERPIECE!!
AND THAT BEAUTY WAS BESTOWED BY MY HAND!
Ou Plastic Surgeon

THANK YOU SO MUCH.
SOB... SOB...
WITH THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE, YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAT THE BOYS OFF WITH A STICK.
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL.
OH, MY GOD! DR. OU!
THIS IS AMAZING!
I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH...
GOOD.
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT.
KYA HA HA HA/ STOP IT/
HEY.
...SHE EVEN MADE A PASS AT MY HUSBAND...
!!
BUT THAT BITCH!
AS SOON AS HER FACE CHANGED ...
...SHE FORGOT IT WAS I WHO GAVE HER THAT GIFT!
SHE RAN THROUGH MEN LIKE WATER AND THEN...

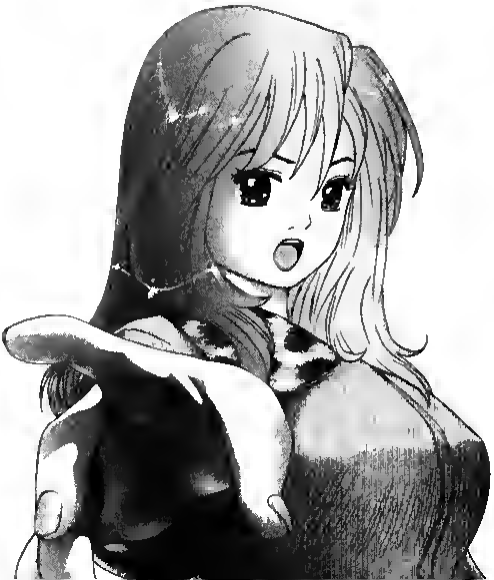
HOW DARE YOU?! AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU!
...OH, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
AFTER ALL...
...YOU DO NOTHING BUT COMPLAIN HOW WORTHLESS HE IS!
THAT WASN'T THE POINT...
EVEN THAT WORTHLESS MAN CHOSE THE EX-UGLY COW JUST BECAUSE SHE BECAME BEAUTIFUL...
I COULDN'T FORGIVE HER FOR BETRAYING ME LIKE THAT!

...I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.
...I DON'T...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
...I SEE.
WELL YOU SEEM TO HAVE NO PRIDE...
TEE HEE...
FOR THE SAKE OF MY PRIDE...

LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY...
SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A GARDEN...
...AND YOU CULTIVATE BEAUTIFUL ROSES.
YOU GIVE IT YOUR ALL, CARING FOR THEM.
BUT THEN, YOU CUT YOURSELF ON A THORN.
YOU'D WANT TO CUT THE ROSE OFF, WOULDN'T YOU?
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED, I SUPPOSE
NOW, OFFICER...

TAKE ME IN.
The killer, Bunja-ku Ou...
She didn't take off her armor even at the end.
She never took off the armor of pride.

file.82 END



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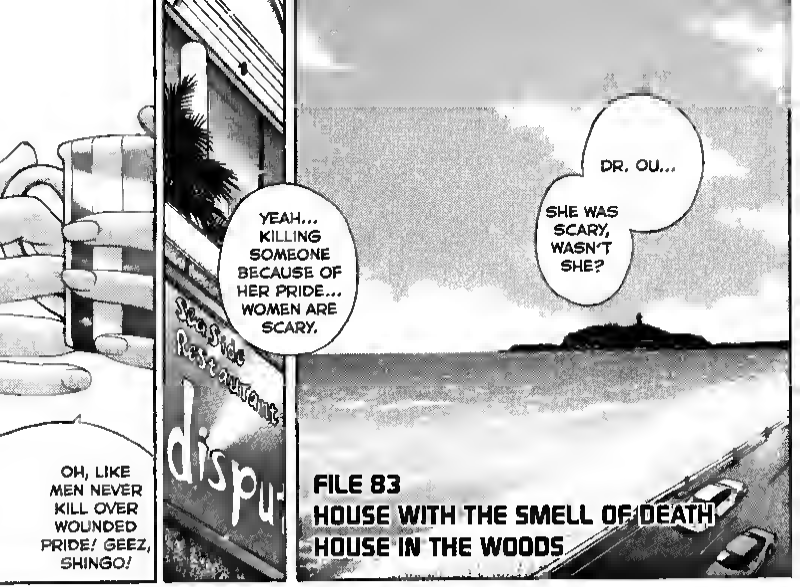
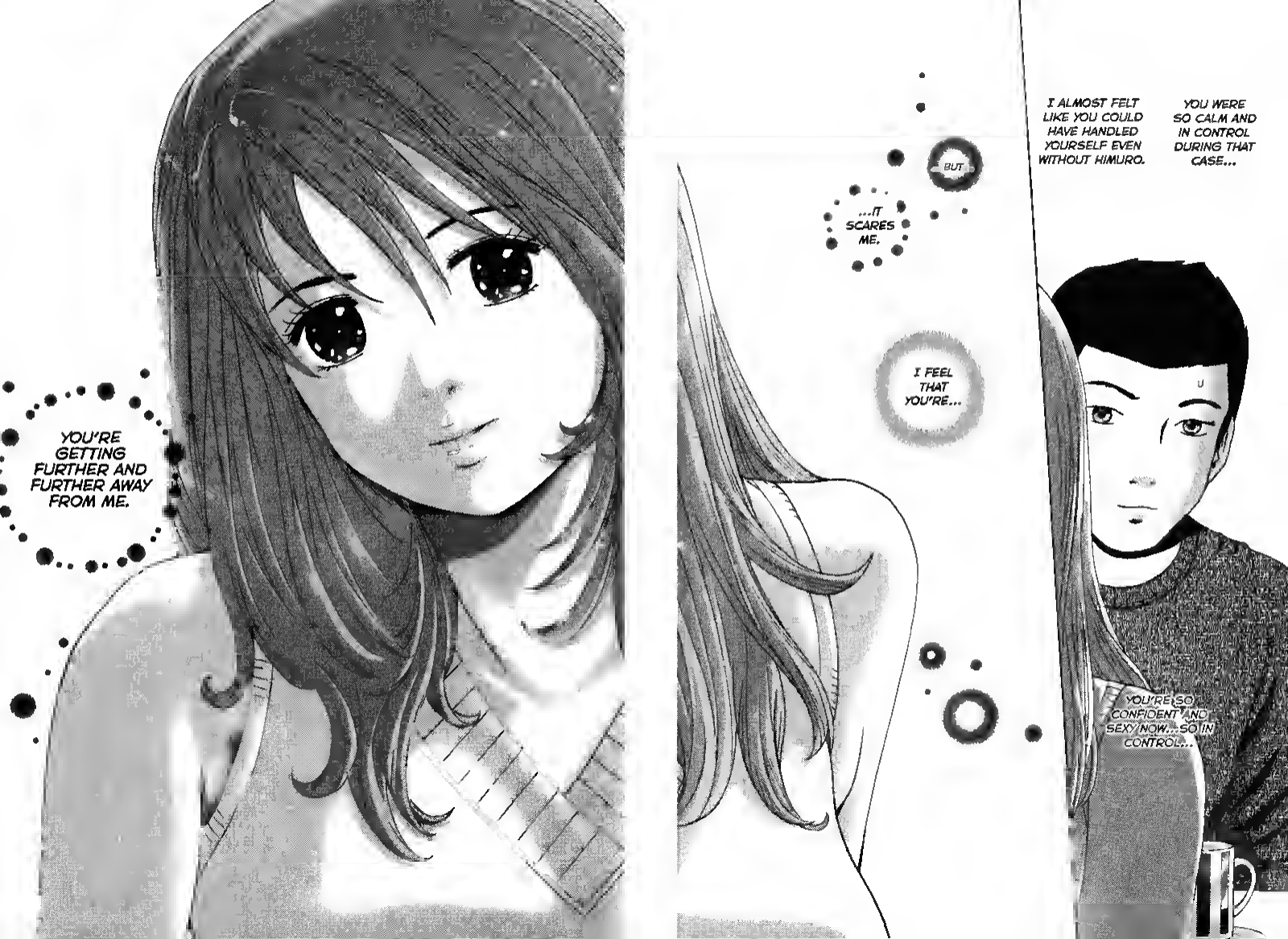
CASE 10:
A HOUSE WITH THE SMELL OF DEATH


DR. OU...
SHE WAS SCARY, WASN'T SHE?
YEAH... KILLING SOMEONE BECAUSE OF HER PRIDE... WOMEN ARE SCARY.
OH, LIKE MEN NEVER KILL OVER WOUNDED PRIDE! GEEZ, SHINGO!
FILE 83
HOUSE WITH THE SMELL OF DEATH
HOUSE IN THE WOODS

DO WOMEN CHANGE WHEN THEIR APPEAR-ANCES CHANGE...?
AND YOU'VE CHANGED, TOO...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE... YOU DON'T REALLY NEED ME ANYMORE

...KURUMI...
YEAH, I THOUGHT SO, TOO.

SORRY... BUT HEY, THE VICTIM WAS SOMETHING, TOO, WASN'T SHE? AS SOON AS HER FACE CHANGED...
...SHE STARTED TO SWITCH BOYFRIENDS AND MAKE THEM GIVE HER MONEY AND STUFF.

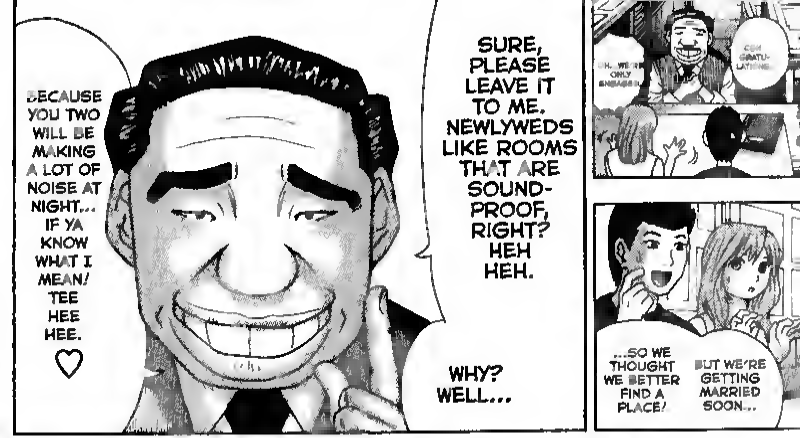

YOU'RE GETTING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM ME.
I FEEL THAT YOU'RE...
BUT
...IT SCARES ME.
I ALMOST FELT LIKE YOU COULD HAVE HANDLED YOURSELF EVEN WITHOUT HIMURO.
YOU WERE SO CALM AND IN CONTROL DURING THAT CASE...
YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT AND SEXY NOW... SO IN CONTROL...

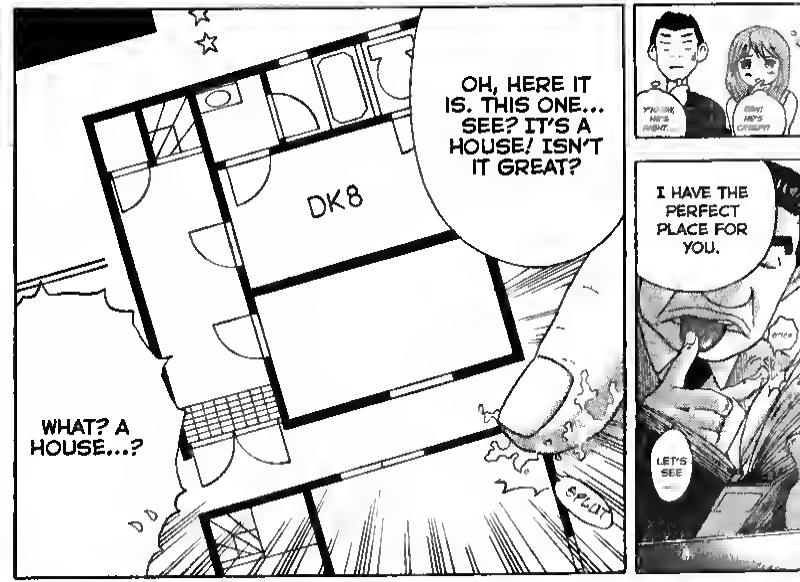
I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY MOVE SOON!
OTHERWISE OUR RELATION-SHIP WILL BE IN DANGER!!
I MUST...
SIGH...
ARE YOU OKAY, SHINGO? YOU LOOK UPSET.
OH, UH, NOTHING!!
YES...
ISN'T IT TIME WE FOUND A PLACE TO LIVE TOGETHER?
WHAT?!
YOU CALLED ME UP SO SUDDENLY
SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME TODAY?
HUH?
OH... YEAH.
WELL, UH...

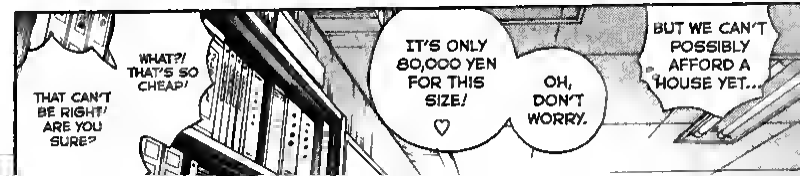
...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S GO FIND A PLACE.
IF WE DON'T CEMENT OUR RELATIONSHIP SOMEHOW...
...I FEEL LIKE OUR WEDDING PLANS WILL EVENTUALLY FADE AWAY...
BECAUSE... WE'RE GETTING MARRIED SOON, YOU KNOW.
BUT...
WE... DON'T EVEN HAVE A PLACE TO LIVE AFTER THE WEDDING.
THAT WAY IT'S EASY FOR ME TO GET TO WORK WHEN THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!
OH! AND IT SHOULD BE CLOSE TO THE TRAIN STATION!
YOUR APARTMENT IS TOO SMALL, AND MY DORMITORY IS OUT OF THE QUESTION...
WE'LL NEED A BIGGER PLACE...TWO BEDROOMS, TWO BATHS ...
WHAT ...?
!!

Y-YEAH, I DID, BUT...
I MEAN, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO STAY AT HOME ONCE WE WERE MARRIED...
KURUMI... AREN'T YOU GOING TO QUIT?
THIS IS NOT GOOD...
WHAT?
SHE'S ALREADY BECOME AN IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.
SHE MUST BE BEGINNING TO ENJOY HER WORK... JUST AS I THOUGHT...
BUT IS IT THE JOB...
SHE'S BEEN SOLVING BIG CRIMES ONE AFTER ANOTHER...
OF COURSE...
STOP
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT IT NOW!
AAAAH!
UM, SHINJO?
ABOUT MY JOB...
...OR IS IT HIM SHE DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE?
NOT GOOD AT ALL...
O-OKAY
LET'S FOCUS ON FINDING A PLACE...WE'LL SORT THE REST OUT LATER!

I MEAN, IF I QUIT...
DID I MAKE SHINGO MAD...?
ガァァァ
ガァァァ
HOUSE FOR SALE, APARTMENT FOR RENT, PARKING YOROZU REAL ESTATE
I SEE, I SEE.
NEWLYWEDS, EH?
...IF I LEAVE...
...INSPECTOR HIMURO WILL BE...


BECAUSE YOU TWO WILL BE MAKING A LOT OF NOISE AT NIGHT... IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN! TEE HEE HEE.
SURE, PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME. NEWLYWEDS LIKE ROOMS THAT ARE SOUND-PROOF, RIGHT? HEH HEH.
WHY? WELL...
CONGRATULATIONS!
...SO WE THOUGHT WE BETTER FIND A PLACE!
BUT WE'RE GETTING MARRIED SOON...


DK8
WHAT? A HOUSE...?
OH, HERE IT IS. THIS ONE... SEE? IT'S A HOUSE! ISN'T IT GREAT?
I HAVE THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOU.
LET'S SEE...
SPLAT


THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! ARE YOU SURE?
WHAT?! THAT'S SO CHEAP!
IT'S ONLY 80,000 YEN FOR THIS SIZE!
OH, DON'T WORRY.
BUT WE CAN'T POSSIBLY AFFORD A HOUSE YET...

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO SEE THE HOUSE RIGHT NOW?
YUP! AND IT'S ONLY A 10-MINUTE WALK TO THE TRAIN STATION... SEE?
IT'S KINDA SECLUDED OUT HERE IN THE WOODS, ISN'T IT?
HOUSE FOR SALE. APARTMENT FOR RENT. PARKING FOR RU REAL ESTATE
WOULD WE! LET'S GO!
YOU CAN LIVE A THERAPEUTIC LIFE IN THE WOODS, TEE HEE HEE HEE...
OH, YES. GOOD FOR NEWLYWEDS!
NO ONE WILL [illegible] YOU GETTING' DOWN OUT HERE! HEH HEH!
THAT'S THE HOUSE... SEE?

IT'S KIND OF CREEPY... AND RUN-DOWN!
W-WELL KURUMI... MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T ...
!!

WOOOOW! HOW CUTE!
A LITTLE HOUSE IN THE WOODS!
LIKE A FAIRY TALE!
HUH?
NO WAY
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE LEARNIN' A A LOT ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES! HEH!
NOW, LET'S GO INSIDE.
I WISH HE'D QUIT THAT...
YES, LET'S!
AND THERE ARE LOTS OF BIRDIES, TOO... TEE HEE HEE.

IT'S TOTALLY LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FAIRY TALE!
Y... YEAH.
A FAIRY TALE WITH A WITCH WHO EATS CHILDREN ...
I'LL UNLOCK THE DOOR AND SHOW YOU THE INSIDE...
JUST ONE SECOND...
WHOA!
EEK!

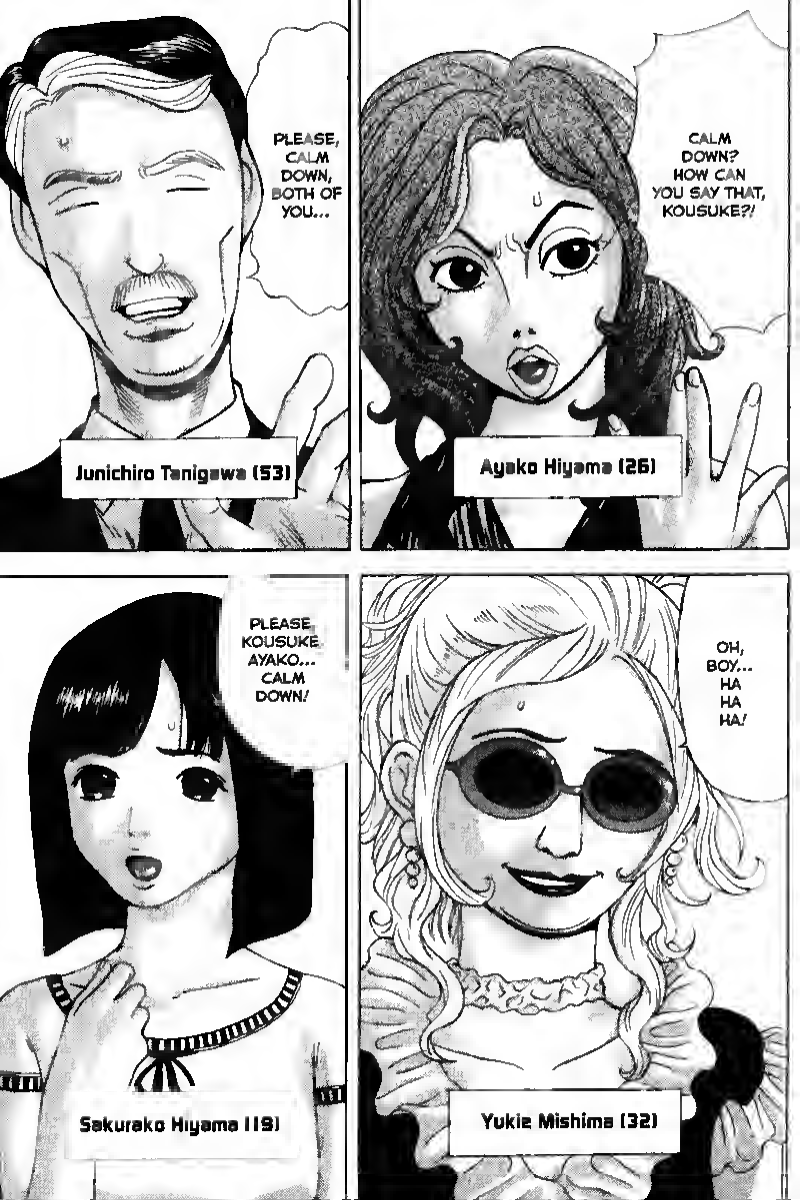
Emily Hiyama (80)
WHO'S THERE?
SHE'S THE LANDLADY, THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE.
NO, NO...OF COURSE NOT.
OH HELLO
HEY, THERE'S A PERSON LIVING IN THIS HOUSE!
WHO'S SHE?
O-OH, I SEE... SHE SCARED ME...
I THINK I PEED A LITTLE BIT...
*LEEEE
...KURUMI LIKES THE HOUSE...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE...

I'M SHUNSUKE KANISHIMA.
I'M KOJIMA HIJIKATA AYANE.
...THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE.
YES, THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED SOON AND...
YOUR CUSTOMERS?
YOROZUYA-SAN, WHO ARE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE?
...IF YOU DON'T MIND IT, YOU'RE WELCOME TO LOOK AT THE HOUSE.
I'M HAVING A BIT OF A PROBLEM, BUT...
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU COME IN?
THANK YOU...
UH...
THERE COME IN
CRAZY OLD BAT...
?
PROBLEM...?

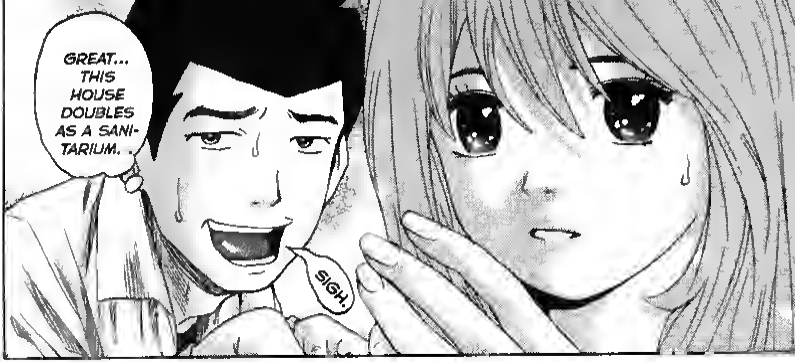
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU BASTARD !!

KILL ME? JEEZ! WHY DON'T WE SIT DOWN AND TALK?
CALM DOWN, SIS.
Kousuke Hiyama (24)

WHA...?
!!


PLEASE, CALM DOWN, BOTH OF YOU...
Junichiro Tanigawa (53)
CALM DOWN? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, KOUSUKE?!
Ayako Hiyama (26)
PLEASE, KOUSUKE, AYAKO... CALM DOWN!
Sakurako Hiyama (19)
OH, BOY... HA HA HA!
Yukie Mishima (32)

WE'RE HERE TO SEE THE HOUSE...
W-WHAT?
UM...
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN OUR HOUSE?!
HUH?!
SEE? IT'S BEEN CRAZY HERE ...
BUT DON'T MIND THEM. PLEASE, TAKE YOUR TIME AND SEE THE HOUSE AS YOU LIKE.
UH... THANK YOU...


GREAT... THIS HOUSE DOUBLES AS A SANI-TARIUM.
SIGH.

SHINGO...
...ALL OF A SUDDEN I HAVE A *BAD* FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE...
END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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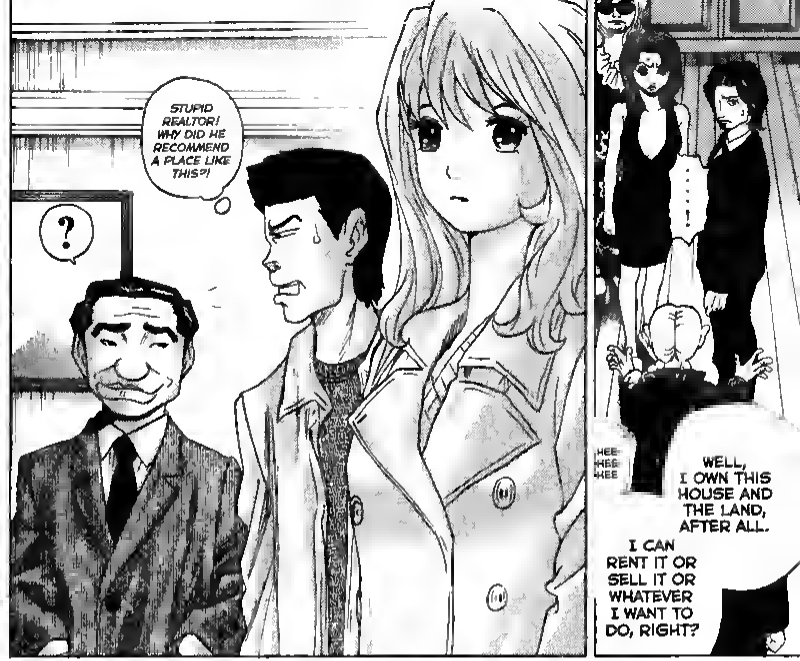
YES, I'M THINKING ABOUT IT.
Emily Hiyama (80)
GRANDMA, ARE YOU RENTING THIS HOUSE...?
Sakurako Hiyama (15)
80,000 YEN PER MONTH.
IT'S A FAIR PRICE FOR THIS OLD HOUSE, ISN'T IT?
WHA...?
Ayako Hiyama (26)
Kousuke Hiyama (24)
FOR HOW MUCH?
OH.
Junichiro Tanigawa (53)
Yukie Mishima (32)
FILE 84
A HOUSE WITH THE SMELL OF DEATH
LANDSCAPE WITH TEA

TALK ABOUT DYSFUNCTIONAL...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ...?!
YOU CAN'T EVEN PAY THE PROPERTY TAX WITH THAT!
Y-YEAH! AND YOU'RE RENTING IT FOR ONLY 80,000 YEN? WHAT THE HELL?!
AT LEAST A BILLION YEN, EVEN IN THIS BAD ECONOMY!
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THIS LAND IS WORTH?
W-WAIT A MINUTE, GRANDMA!
80,000?!
HEE-HEE-HEE.
YOU WERE JUST FIGHTING AGAINST EACH OTHER THREATENING DEATH, BUT YOU CAN BE GOOD BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT A TIME LIKE THIS, EH?
OH, MY. YOU KIDS ARE SUCH MERCENARY DEVILS.


STUPID REALTOR! WHY DID HE RECOMMEND A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
?
HEE-HEE-HEE
WELL, I OWN THIS HOUSE AND THE LAND, AFTER ALL.
I CAN RENT IT OR SELL IT OR WHATEVER I WANT TO DO, RIGHT?

I WANT HERBAL TEA.
DARJEELING FOR ME, OKAY?
ALL RIGHT
RIGHT AWAY ...
OH... NO THANK YOU.
DARJEELING FOR ME AND TANIGAWA-SAN, TOO.
I don't know what to do
SIGH
HMPH.
OH... SURE, GRAND-MA
MAKE SOME TEA FOR OUR GUESTS, SAKURAKO.

WE'LL HAPPILY GO HOME RIGHT NOW...
Y... YEAH!
OH, DON'T WORRY. PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW US THE HOUSE IF YOU'RE BUSY...
UM... DON'T MIND US...
THIS IS AN AUTHENTIC EUROPEAN COUNTRY HOUSE.
GREAT HOUSE, ISN'T IT? IT WAS BUILT WHEN I WAS A CHILD.
MY MAMA IS FRENCH. SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS FOREST, YOU SEE?
SO MY FATHER CALLED AN ARCHITECT FROM FRANCE AND BUILT THIS HOUSE.
WOW, HOW WONDERFUL!

THERE, THERE. I'LL GIVE YOU A TOUR.
HEY, MR. REALTOR! YOU'RE HERE TO SELL IT FOR ME, RIGHT?
OH...OF COU ISE/
Y-YEAH.
YEAH, SHINGO?
IF WE LIVE HERE, WE'LL BE CURSED AS WELL, I BET...
THIS HOUSE IS THE CAUSE OF THEIR TROUBLE, RIGHT?
ISN'T THIS A GREAT HOUSE?
AND LOOK AT THAT FIREPLACE! REAL COZY TO CURL UP NEXT TO AND...HEH HEH HEH!
EH? EH? ♡

WHAT'S THIS?
L-LOOKS LIKE IT, HA HA HA! WHA-WHAT'S THIS, HIYAMA-SAN?
IT'S... IT'S A BONE, ISN'T IT?!
HMM?
WELL... THAT'S ACTUALLY NICE...
THIS FIREPLACE IS NOT AN IMITATION. YOU REALLY BURN FIREWOOD IN HERE.
WOOOW...!
I HOPE IT WASN'T HUMAN...
...LIKE HANSEL AND GRETEL ...!
OH, I SEE.
OH, THAT. I MUST HAVE COOKED SOMETHING HERE.
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS THOUGH IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LIVED HERE.
KURUMI, PLEASE ...
DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS HOUSE ANYMORE ...
WHAT?!
ROAST A TURKEY?
HOW ROMANTIC! IF WE LIVE HERE, WE CAN ROAST TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS!

WOW! I'D LOVE TO!
NOW, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BEDROOM?
♡

OH, MY GOD! THIS ROOM IS INCREDIBLE, TOO!
♡

OH, I KNOW...!
UM, ABOUT THAT ARGUMENT... WAS IT POSSIBLY ABOUT...
LET'S GO DEEP INTO THE PROBLEM...
EH?! SHE'S PRACTICALLY READY TO MOVE IN!
OH, ISN'T IT?
LOOK, ALL WE CAN SEE IS THE WINDOW. ♡
DON'T WORRY! I'M 80 YEARS OLD, BUT BOTH MY PARENTS LIVED UNTIL 100.
I GOT LIFE IN ME YET!
KYA HA HA HA! THIS BED IS SO BOUNCY! ♡
100...
HELLO? ARE YOU LISTENING, HUBUM?
OH, THAT. AS YOU PROBABLY GUESSED...
...THEY WERE FIGHTING OVER THEIR INHERITANCE OF THIS PROPERTY.
INHERI-TANCE ...?!
I KNEW IT.
MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T RENT IT IF THEY'RE FIGHTING OVER IT!
RIGHT, HUBUM?
HA HA HA. I SEE...BUT THEN...
...WHY ARE YOUR GRAND-CHILDREN HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE INHERI-TANCE...?
!!
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE...
...I WON'T LET ANYONE TEAR DOWN THIS HOUSE. HEE-HEE-HEE.

BECAUSE THOSE TWO HAVE A LOT OF DEBT...
THEY WASTED THEIR PARENTS' MONEY ON STUPID THINGS AND CAME TO ME FOR HELP. SUCH IDIOTS!
I'M NOT GOING TO SELL IT AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE. I TOLD YOU.
STOP WORRYING AND ENJOY THE HOUSE LIKE I HAVE
THERE'S A LOT OF MEMORIES IN THIS HOUSE ♡
I SAID, DON'T WORRY!
THEY'RE YOUR GRAND CHILDREN, AFTER ALL—
WELL, YOU'LL HELP THEM EVENTUALLY, RIGHT?
...AND WE'LL BE KICKED OUT!
EVEN IF WE RENT IT, MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE TO SELL THE HOUSE SOON--

THOSE ROTTEN KIDS ...
THIS IS NOT GOOD ...
YEAH HA HA HA.
IT'S BETTER NOT SAY ANYTHING NEGATIVE ...
STILL, AT LEAST KURUMI IS EXCITED ABOUT HAVING A PLACE TOGETHER... I DON'T WANNA MESS THIS UP!
THEY'LL THROW THE OLD BAG DOWN THE STAIRS THE FIRST CHANCE THEY GET!
A HOUSE FULL OF GRANDMA'S MEMORIES...
TEE-HEE. DID YOU KNOW, SHINGO?
INSPECTOR HIMURO'S HOUSE IS AN OLD EUROPEAN MANSION JUST LIKE THIS.
HIS IS MUCH BIGGER, THOUGH.
HOW ROMANTIC.
ISN'T IT, SHINGO? ♡
CLICK
UM, THE TEA IS READY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO THE LIVING ROOM?
WHAT?!
AS SOON AS WE RENT IT, I'LL JUMP ON HER AND SHE'LL BE MINE...!!
I DON'T CARE EVEN IF WE DO HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS HAUNTED MANSION!
HIMURO AGAIN... SHIT!

HERE YOU ARE ...
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

PLEASE THINK IT OVER, GRANDMA.
YOU SHOULDN'T RENT THIS HOUSE.
YEAH. . WELL, IT'S OKAY TO RENT THE HOUSE, I GUESS, BUT...
...WHY DON'T YOU AT LEAST SELL PART OF THE LAND?

I TOLD YOU THAT WAS A BAD IDEA, AYAKO!
IF YOU SELL IT SEPARATELY, IT DOESN'T WORK! WHY DO YOU THINK I'M TALKING TO THAT BIG LAND DEVELOPER ...?
YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT IT?!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! YOU WANT TO SKIP THE MIDDLE MARGIN AND TAKE ALL THE PROFIT FOR YOURSELF, RIGHT?!

AYAKO, KOUSUKE, STOP IT ALREADY!
WE HAVE GUESTS!
HMPH! YOU ALWAYS PRETEND TO BE A GOOD GIRL, BUT...
...YOU'RE THE MOST MATERIALISTIC OUT OF ALL OF US!
WHA... WHAT?!
HAH, YOU GUYS ARE DISGUSTING
AREN'T THEY, GRANDMA? THE WAY THEY CONNIVE TO GET YOUR FORTUNE...
I JUST WANT A SMALL LOAN... SAY, 100,000 YEN?
PLEASE?
HMPH

EVERY-ONE TALKS ABOUT MONEY, MONEY, MONEY.
I TIRE OF IT.
AH, THE TEA IS READY.
ENJOY IT BEFORE IT GETS COLD!
WELL ...
IT'LL BE MY PLEASURE.
HERE, YOU TOO ...
THANK YOU...

1
HMPH AREN'T YOU GOOD AT WINNING GRANDMA'S FAVOR?
ISN'T IT? HEE HEE HEE.
WOW ...! THIS TEA IS SO GOOD!
A-AYAKO ...
LOOKS LIKE ONLY SAKURAKO INHERITED IT. HEE HEE HEE.
WE MAKE IT FRENCH STYLE.
OH, I DON'T MIND IT. HA HA HA!
WE'RE ONE TEA SHORT BECAUSE OF ME...
HMM?
ズッ
I FORGOT THAT I DIDN'T ASK FOR ONE.
OOPS, I DRANK IT BY MISTAKE.
IT'S RUDE TO LEAVE MY GUESTS WITHOUT TEA WHEN EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY IS DRINKING IT...
I MIND.

WHAT KIND OF TEA DO YOU LIKE, YOROZUYA-SAN?
OH, I ASKED FOR EARL GRAY.
SAKURAKO, MAKE ONE MORE.
YES, RIGHT AWAY...
THEN TAKE MINE.
OH, IS THAT SO?
I'LL HAVE SAKURAKO MAKE SOME MORE.
OH... ARE YOU SURE?
THANK YOU.

I'LL HELP MYSELF THEN...
UG...

!!
WHOA! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
EEEEK! BL- BLOOD!
HE'S CHOKING ON SOMETHING!
HE'S BEEN POISONED!

KYAAAAAAH! W-WHAT'S THIS?!

P... POLICE!
DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!
I NEED TO PRESERVE THE CRIME SCENE!
POLICE
SOMEONE POISONED THE TEA!
File 8: END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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...he coughed up blood and died.

He may not have been the intended victim.

As soon as the victim drank the tea he was given...

Shinzou Yorozuya / Real Estate Agent

Shingo and I were looking for an apartment and our realtor took us to this house.

But right in front of us, he was murdered!

Ayako Hiyama

Kousuke Hiyama

Yukie Mishima

Sakurako Hiyama

...and her family, who were arguing about their inheritance...

The people who were at the scene were the old landlady who owns the house and the land...

Emily Hiyama

Yorozuya died when he drank the tea...

...that was meant for Emily.

One of these people... was a killer!

Junichiro Tanigawa

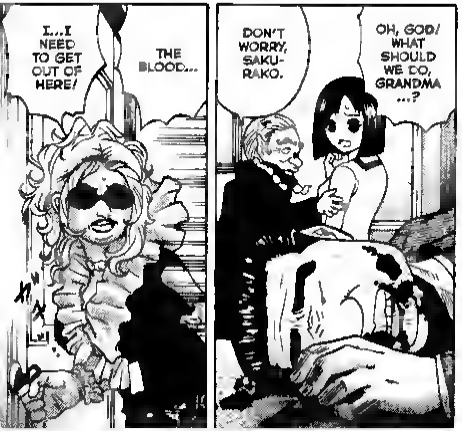
...and the lawyer.

FILE 05
A HOUSE WITH THE SMELL OF DEATH
SUSPECTS

BOB! REPORT THIS TO THE LOCAL OFFICE!
HAVE THEM GO TO THE SCENE IMMEDIATELY!
YOU GOT IT.

OH, MY GOD!

HE'S DEAD! HE'S REALLY DEAD!
WAS IT A HEART ATTACK?!
OH MY GOD...

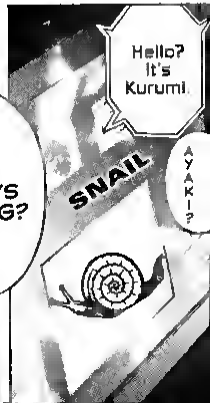

I...I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!
THE BLOOD...
DON'T WORRY, SAKURAKO.
OH, GOD! WHAT SHOULD WE DO, GRANDMA ...?

I reported the situation to Inspector Himuro.

I SEE... POISONING, EH?
Looks that way, sir.
GIVE ME THE DETAILS...

But was it truly meant for her, or ...?

WHAT'S WRONG?


Hello? It's Kurumi.
AYAKI?
SNAIL

STOP!
UNTIL I GIVE YOU PERMISSION, NO ONE LEAVES THIS ROOM! UNDERSTOOD?
EVERYONE HERE IS INVOLVED IN THIS!
YOU'RE GETTING USED TO IT, EH?
NICE JOB, OFFICER
LOOK AT HER! SHE'S SO QUICK TO TAKE CHARGE...
DO YOU MEAN YOU THINK WE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS?
INVOLVED?
!
!
Right?
YES.
IF IT'S POISONING, THE KILLER MIGHT STILL HAVE THE REST OF THE POISON HIDDEN SOMEWHERE.
You were right to keep the suspects at the scene.
Do you know why?

REALLY?
I'M IMPRESSED, OFFICER.
CORRECT.
Y-YES!
THANK YOU, SIR!
YES ♡
Your fiancé is with you, right?
Good. Let's get to work.
You know the drill.
YES, SIR!
With his help, summon one person at a time into the other room and question them... okay?
KUR-UM!
AND HIM AGAIN
YOU GAVE ME THE CORRECT ANSWER WITHOUT EVEN THINKING.
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT, TO BE HONEST.
YOU'VE GROWN UP... AYAKI.

...
HMM...
RIGHT!
...adjust their stories by listening to each other's.
Right. We don't want them to...
ONE PERSON AT A TIME, RIGHT?
SO, NO ONE BUT EMILY HAS A MOTIVE.
SHE SEEMS TO KNOW THE MOST ABOUT THE REALTOR!
DON'T YOU THINK?
I'LL START WITH THE EASY ONE, I THINK...
SHE'S IMPRESSIVE...
HEY♡
I DON'T KNOW IF MY OPINION WOULD BE OF ANY USE, BUT I THINK IT WAS EMILY WHO PUT IN THE POISON!
I HAVE TO IMPRESS HER HERE!
?
SHINGO, CAN YOU COME WITH ME FOR A SEC?
WHA-WHAT? SURE! IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
ANYTHING! NAME IT!
YOU SEE...
UM, SORRY, BUT I DON'T THINK SO ...

YOROZUYA DIED BY DRINKING THE TEA THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE EMILY'S.
THAT HAPPENED BECAUSE TANIGAWA TOOK YOROZUYA'S TEA BY MISTAKE.
IF THERE'S POISON IN THE TEA...
...WOULDN'T THAT MEAN EMILY WAS THE TARGET?
I LOVE IT!
RIGHT...
SORRY.
HEY, LOOKS LIKE SHE WAS SCOLDED
THAT JERK
HMPH. GOOD OBSERV-ATION.
Thanks!
HOWEVER ...
NOW, SHINGO...
WILL YOU WATCH THESE PEOPLE AND KEEP THEM IN THIS ROOM FOR ME?
IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL SUMMON THEM TO THE OTHER ROOM ONE BY ONE AND GET THEIR TESTI-MONIES.
NO PROBLEM!
Emily Hiyama
Tea
Offered to
Realtor
Drank it
IT'S DANGEROUS TO JUMP TO A CONCLUSION LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE NO AMATEUR DETECTIVE, KURUMI. WE INVESTIGATORS SHOULD THINK MORE CAREFULLY.
KEEP YOUR FIANCE'S OPINION IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND JUST IN CASE, AND GET ALL THE SUSPECTS' TESTIMONIES, OKAY?
POISONED?

YEAH, OFFICER!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT EITHER!
I MET THE REALTOR FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.
SO DID I!
ONLY GRAND-MA...
...HAS MET HIM BEFORE, RIGHT ...?
SHUT UP, CHILDREN!
QUESTION US?!
WHY?!
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!

NOW, I'LL BE QUESTIONING EACH OF YOU ONE AT A TIME!
THANKS... AND SHINGO? I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
Y-YEAH?

しーん
S... BUT...
...YOROZUYA DIED INSTEAD OF ME BECAUSE HE DRANK THE POISONED TEA!
WHAT THIS OFFICER IS SAYING IS THAT ...
A GOOD GIRL LIKE YOU COULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO KILL ME...
DOES THAT MEAN SOMEONE HERE TRIED TO KILL GRAMDMA?
SOMEONE HERE TRIED TO KILL GRAMDMA ...?
HEE HEE HEE I'M SURE IT WASN'T YOU, DEAR
B... BUT...
WHAT ELSE CAN IT BE, SAKURAKO...?

Y...YEAH! TANIGAWA-SAN!
TELL THE OFFICER SOME THING!
HUH?
HEY! WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT US, YUKIE-SAN?!
YES...
I HIRED YOU FOR THINGS LIKE THIS...
IS THIS LEGAL, WHAT THIS OFFICER IS DOING?
NO TALKING OUT HERE WHILE I'M IN THE NEXT ROOM, UNDERSTOOD?
I'LL BEGIN HEARING YOUR STATEMENTS NOW.
SHINGO WILL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON ALL OF YOU.

I'M SAKU-RAKO... SAKURAKO HIYAMA.
OH!

S-SURE...
COULD YOU PLEASE COME TO THE NEXT ROOM?

MY BROTHER AND SISTER ARE ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
I'M SORRY, OFFICER
IT'S ALL RIGHT
YOU'RE EMILY'S...?

NOW, MISS...?

GRAND-DAUGHTER.
I'M THE YOUNGEST OF THREE. I'M A LOT YOUNGER THAN THEM.
WHO'S THE OLDEST?
AYAKO.
KOUSUKE IS IN THE MIDDLE.
I see...
SAKURAKO IS THE ONE WHO MADE EVERYONE'S TEA.
CONSIDERING THAT SHE HAD THE BEST CHANCE TO PUT POISON IN THE TEA WE CAN SAY SHE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT SUSPECT.
QUESTION HER CAREFULLY.
Yes, sir.

WE KNOW NOTHING OF HER TRUE NATURE.
If you're thinking that Sakurako can't be the killer just because she seems to be nice, I'm telling you, it's not as simple as that.
I PERSONALLY THINK THIS GIRL IS THE LAST PERSON TO SUSPECT, THOUGH...
TAKA TAKA
BOB, GET ME SOME INFORMATION ON SAKURAKO.
NO PROB, BOSS.
R-RIGHT...
TAKA TAKA
Personal Information
Sakurako Hiyama
TAKA
Search
PING
I UNDER-STAND.
FIRST, I NEED TO ASK...

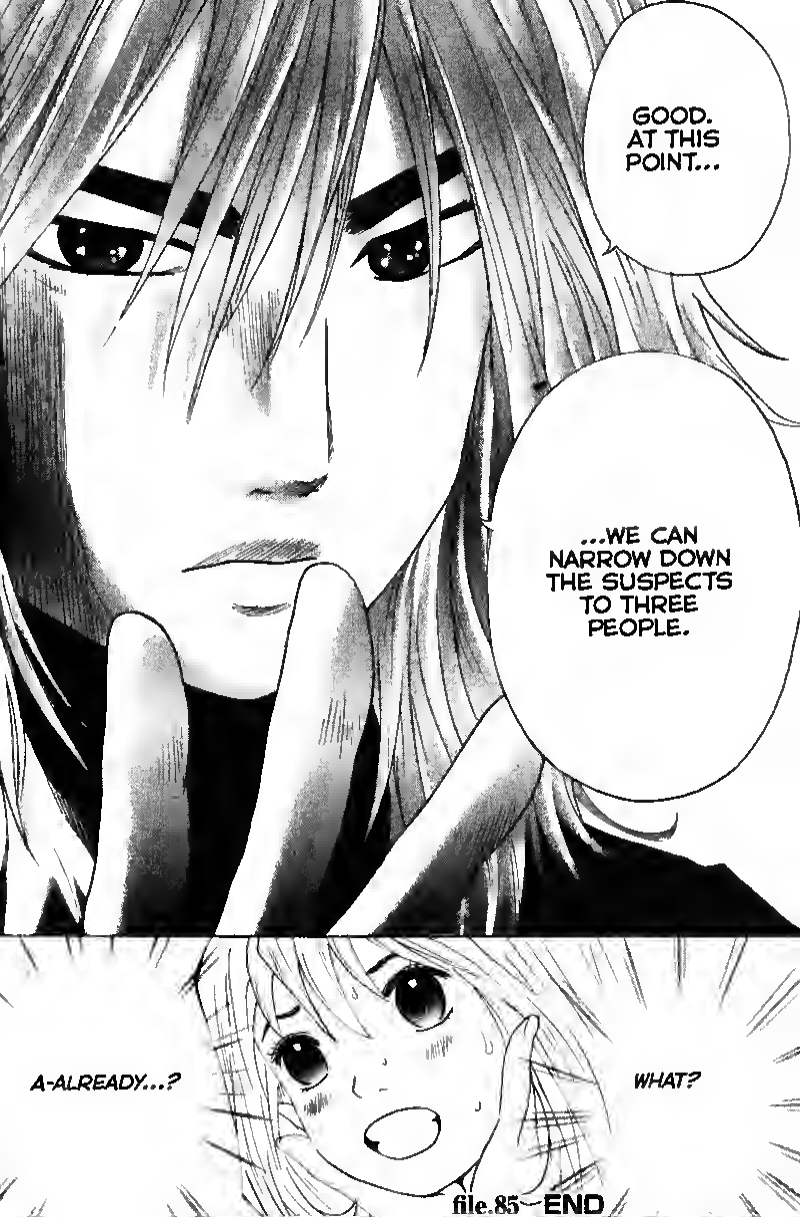
YES, B–
BUT...IT'S
ALWAYS
ME!
KOUSUKE,
AYAKO AND
YUKIE...
...THEY'D
NEVER DO
THINGS LIKE
THAT...
I SEE.
...YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO MADE
THE TEA,
RIGHT?
I NOTICED THAT
ALL THE TEACUPS
WERE SLIGHTLY
DIFFERENT FROM
EACH OTHER.
ANY
REASON?
HMM...
GOOD
CATCH.
Y-YES! IT'S
GRANDMA'S
IDEA.

SHE CHOOSES THE CUP DEPENDING ON THE FLAVOR...
FLAVOR?
YES, TYPE OF TEA, I MEAN. I ALWAYS DRINK APPLE TEA AND GRANDMA ONLY DRINKS EARL GRAY. YUKIE AND KOUSUKE ALWAYS DRINK DARJEELING.
Ayako only drinks herbal tea.
It has to be a blend of chamomile, mint, and lemon grass.
WHO HERE...
...KNEW ABOUT THIS...?
IT'D BE ME, OF COURSE. GRANDMA...
...KOUSUKE, AYAKO, AND YUKIE. FIVE OF US.

AYAKO, YUKIE AND I NEVER MET HIM BEFORE...
I DON'T THINK TANIGAWA-SAN KNOWS ABOUT IT, BECAUSE KOUSUKE BROUGHT HIM HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY.
WHEN DID HE ASK FOR IT?
I HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION.
I REMEMBER THAT YOROZUYA-SAN DIDN'T ASK FOR TEA WHEN EVERYONE WAS THERE
...
CAN I LEAVE NOW, OFFICE
NOT YET.
EXCUSE ME, BUT I CHANGED MY MIND. TEA DOES SOUND NICE
WHAT FLAVOR WOULD YOU LIKE?
WHEN GRANDMA WAS SHOWING THE HOUSE TO YOU.
HE CAME INTO THE KITCHEN, AND...

I HAD IT FOR THE FIRST TIME JUST YESTERDAY WITH ONE OF MY CUSTOMERS. IT WAS SO GOOD!
Ha ha ha ha
EARL GRAY, PLEASE.
Call the lawyer Tanigawa
THANK YOU, SAKURAKO-SAN. THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.
WOULD YOU TELL TANIGAWA-SAN TO COME IN?
OKAY.
Inspector do you really think we can find the killer this way?
OF COURSE...
Um, Inspector Himuro? Do you have anything else to ask Sakurako?
NO, YOU CAN LET HER GO NOW. BRING IN THE NEXT SUSPECT.

YES, I THINK SO.
...AND THEN KOUSUKE, AYAKO AND YUKIE HANDED THEM OUT TO EVERYONE, RIGHT?
SAKURAKO BROUGHT THE TEA, PUT THEM ON THE TABLE...
CLINK
Ayaki ...I'd like to check this again
...AND THEN GAVE HER TEA TO YOROZUYA.
EMILY SAN THAT...
AND TANIGAWA DRANK THE TEA THAT WAS PLACED IN FRONT OF HIM BY MISTAKE.
THAT'S RIGHT... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR YOROZUYA SAN.
HMM?
ズッ・・・
・・・・
AND DIED... RIGHT?
RIGHT. YOROZUYA DRANK THE TEA AND STARTED COUGHING UP BLOOD
That's right
I SEE...
I FORGOT THAT I DIDN'T ASK FOR ONE.
OOPS! I DRANK IT BY MISTAKE.


GOOD. AT THIS POINT...
...WE CAN NARROW DOWN THE SUSPECTS TO THREE PEOPLE.
A-ALREADY...?
WHAT?

file.85~END

OH MY GOD!
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But it didn't seem to be meant for him ...

...but rather, the house's owner, Emily!

Our realtor was killed when someone poisoned his tea.

Shinzo Yoiozuya / Real Estate Agent

Shingo and I were looking for a new place to live, and our realtor brought us to a house in the woods.

But apparently, my reputation as a murder magnet is well earned.

Per Inspector Himuro's instructions, I started to question them in a separate room, one at a time.

Ayako Hiyama

Kousuke Hiyama

Emily Hiyama

Yukie Mishima

Sakurako Hiyama

Junichiro Tanigawa

The killer is one or more of the following:

FILE 06
A HOUSE WITH THE SMELL OF DEATH
INVESTIGATION

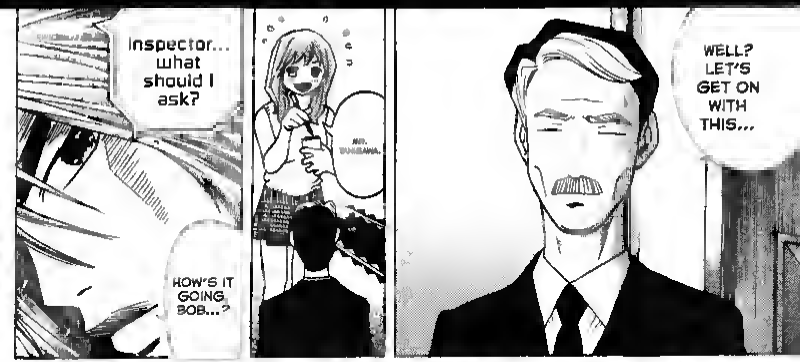
...the Inspector was sure we were on the right track.

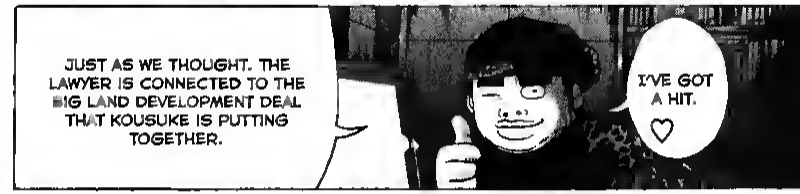
AT THIS POINT...

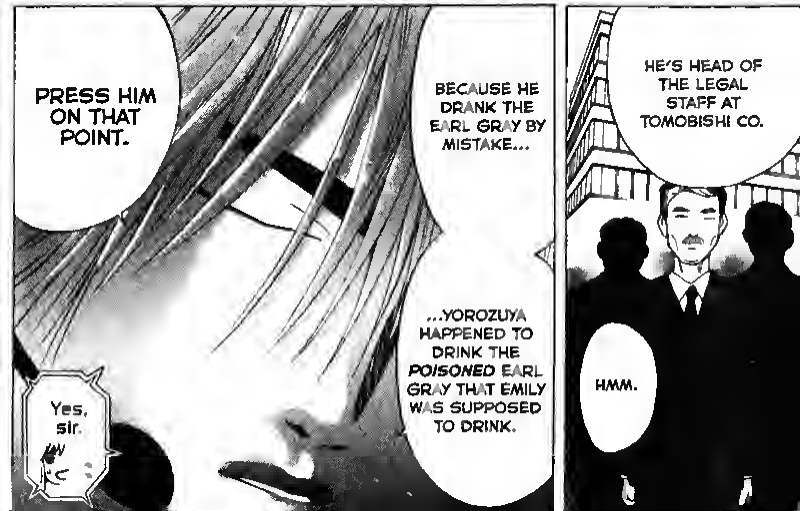
...WE CAN NARROW DOWN THE SUSPECTS TO THREE PEOPLE

When I finished questioning Sakurako...

WOULD YOU TELL TANIGAWA SAN TO COME IN?


Inspector... what should I ask?
HOW'S IT GOING, BOB...?
MR. TANIGAWA
WELL? LET'S GET ON WITH THIS...


JUST AS WE THOUGHT. THE LAWYER IS CONNECTED TO THE BIG LAND DEVELOPMENT DEAL THAT KOUSUKE IS PUTTING TOGETHER.
I'VE GOT A HIT. ♡


PRESS HIM ON THAT POINT.
Yes, sir.
BECAUSE HE DRANK THE EARL GRAY BY MISTAKE...
...YOROZUYA HAPPENED TO DRINK THE *POISONED* EARL GRAY THAT EMILY WAS SUPPOSED TO DRINK.
HE'S HEAD OF THE LEGAL STAFF AT TOMOBISHI CO.
HMM.

I TOLD SAKURAKO THAT I DIDN'T WANT TEA.
BUT KOUSUKE PLACED THE TEA IN FRONT OF ME. HE KNOWS I LIKE EARL GRAY!
THE TEA? OH, THAT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!
YES, THAT'S ALL. IT'S NOT THAT UNUSUAL!
BUT...ARE YOU SURE EMILY WAS THE TARGET?
WELL...I MET EMILY ONCE BEFORE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
SO, YOU WERE BEING POLITE AND WENT AHEAD AND DRANK IT...
IS THAT RIGHT?

HE THINKS HE CAN HOOK MY HUSBAND UP WITH SOME TROLLOP...
...ALL FOR THE SAKE OF BUSINESS?
20 years ago
I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS!
I WAS JUST A FRESHMAN AT THE TIME...
IT WAS ASSUMED HE RAN OFF WITH HIS MISTRESS.
DAYS LATER, EMILY'S HUSBAND WENT MISSING, ALONG WITH THE GIRL...
EMILY, PLEASE...
THERE'S NO EVIDENCE!
HOW DARE HE? AND THAT LITTLE BITCH ...!
EVERYTHING! THE MAN WHO INTRODUCED HER HUSBAND TO THAT GIRL...
...IS THE VICTIM, YOROZUYA-SAN!
...I SEE ...
BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS MURDER CASE?

WHAAAAAAT?!
DOESN'T IT SEEM SUSPICIOUS THAT SHE KEPT THE BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM...?
TWENTY YEARS IS A LONG TIME, BUT...
Y... yeah...
WELL... IF YOU ASK ME ...
...IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE FOR EMILY TO HAVE NURSED A GRUDGE ALL THESE YEARS...
...AND FINALLY TOOK HER REVENGE!
HM...
...

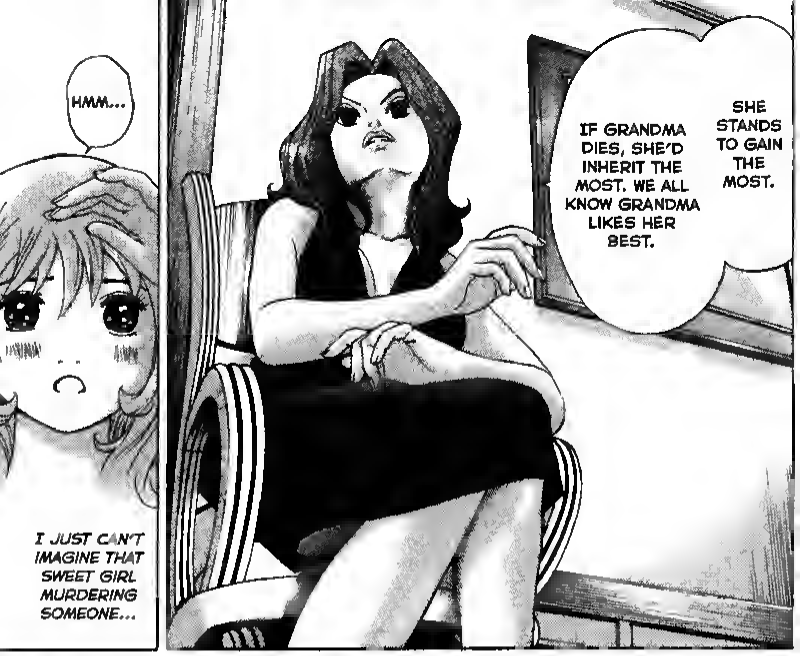
LET'S CUT THE BULLSHIT, OKAY?
I KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS.
PLEASE TAKE A SEAT.
HI.
I'M KOUSUKE HIYAMA.
...
Do you really?
WELL...I'M EMBARRASSED TO TELL YOU THIS...
...BUT SHE'S EXTREMELY MATERIALISTIC.
SHE'S WAY OVER HER HEAD IN CREDIT CARD DEBT.
...IT'S MY SISTER, AYAKO!
AND WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

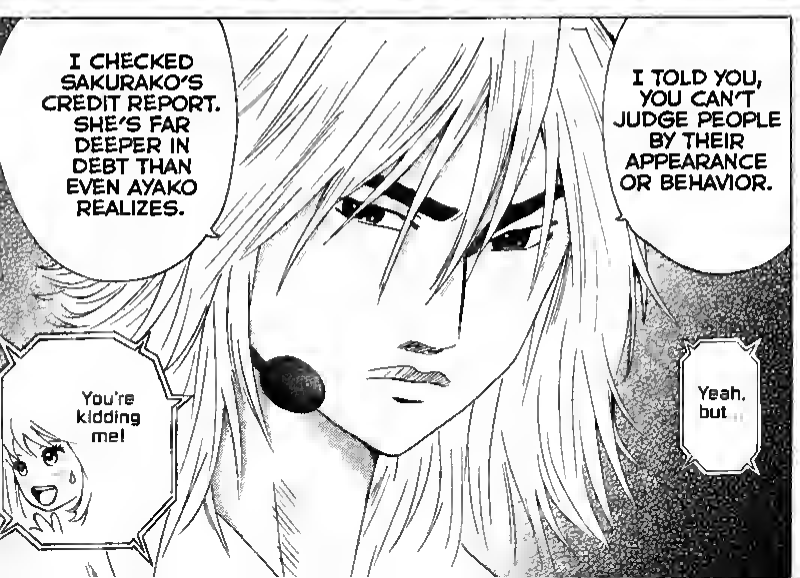
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL THAT REALTOR?
WHY INDEED.
INSPECTOR...?
SHE'S ALSO RATHER VIOLENT AND SHORT-TEMPERED.
I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYONE ELSE WANTING TO KILL GRANDMA.
AND WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS THE TARGET?
KOUSUKE'S TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR A BIG DEVELOPER, TOMOBISHI, TO DEVELOP EMILY'S LAND.
I FOUND THAT OUT FROM HIS PERSONAL INFORMATION.
ASK HIM ABOUT IT.
RIGHT.
WOW! HE WORKS FAST!

I HAVE MY SOURCES.
I MEAN, IT'S TRUE, ALL RIGHT?
OH... UH, I...
WHAT?!
WH-WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
ACCORDING TO YOUR MEMORY, IT WAS KOUSUKE, AYAKO AND YUKIE WHO PLACED THE TEA IN FRONT OF THE GUESTS, RIGHT?
IT'S STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGES ...
HAVE BEEN LOOKING TO DEVELOP THIS UNUSED LAND OF GRANDMA'S
Good. Now...
Ask him about it.
OKAY.

ASK HIM WHAT KIND OF TEA *HE* HAD.
...YES.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I--I ALWAYS DRINK DARJEELING.
AND I ONLY DRINK FAUCHON'S.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE FALLING FOR HER LITTLE "GOODY TWO-SHOES" ROUTINE!
I'M SURE IT'S [redacted]-KU-RAKO!
C'MON... IT'S AN ACT!
BUT TRUST ME. SHE'S AS WILD AS THEY COME!
SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD SHE'D ALWAYS PLAY THE GOOD GIRL JUST TO GET POCKET MONEY OUT OF GRANDMA.
SHE SPENT A TON OF MONEY ON THAT LITTLE GIGOLO SHE HAD...SO MUCH THAT SHE'S DEEP IN DEBT RIGHT NOW.
...ALL SHE'S EVER WANTED OUT OF HER IS HER MONEY!
I'M SURE SHE TRIED TO POISON GRANDMA.
ROUTINE?


HMM...
I JUST CAN'T IMAGINE THAT SWEET GIRL MURDERING SOMEONE...
SHE STANDS TO GAIN THE MOST.
IF GRANDMA DIES, SHE'D INHERIT THE MOST. WE ALL KNOW GRANDMA LIKES HER BEST.

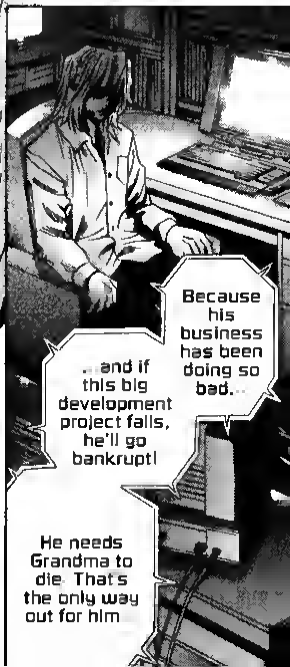

I CHECKED SAKURAKO'S CREDIT REPORT. SHE'S FAR DEEPER IN DEBT THAN EVEN AYAKO REALIZES.
I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR APPEARANCE OR BEHAVIOR.
You're kidding me!
Yeah, but...

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S A FAMILY TRADITION THAT WE USE DIFFERENT CUPS FOR DIFFERENT TEA FLAVORS.
WHO KNEW ABOUT IT?
EVERYONE... WELL, I DON'T THINK THE LAWYER AND THE REALTOR KNEW ABOUT IT, THOUGH...
ASK WHAT TYPE OF TEA SHE HAD.
GOT IT?
I ALWAYS DRINK HERBAL TEA.
IT'S A SPECIAL BLEND OF CHAMOMILE, MINT, AND LEMON GRASS FOR MY HEALTH.
NOW...WHAT WE WANT TO ASK HER IS...
!!
KOU...
YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY IT'S COVER, AYAKI. SOMETIMES YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL HOW MUCH IT COSTS.

IT'S GOT TO BE KOUSUKE!
THAT'S FINE, BUT I HAVE TO QUESTION EVERYONE, SO...
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!

THEY'RE FAMILY! HOW CAN THEY SO CASUALLY ACCUSE EACH OTHER?
WHAT A BUNCH OF GHOULS.


Because his business has been doing so bad...
...and if this big development project falls, he'll go bankrupt!
He needs Grandma to die. That's the only way out for him

NO, I NEVER MET HIM BEFORE.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS COMING.
I THINK KOUSUKE BROUGHT HIM.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE LAWYER, TANIGAWA?
ONE MORE QUESTION.
...WHO HANDED OUT THE TEA.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I THINK IT WAS ME, KOUSUKE, AND AYAKO...
HOW ABOUT THE OTHERS? DID THEY KNOW HIM?
I DON'T KNOW...I DON'T THINK SO.
OH, WAIT!
...WHEN THE LAWYER CAME INTO THE LIVING ROOM...
I THINK EMILY SAID THAT SHE KNEW HIM...
CALL IN YUKIE MISHIMA, AYAKI.

I DIDN'T GIVE IT MUCH THOUGHT AT THE TIME, BUT THEY CLEARLY KNEW EACH OTHER.
OH... YES, I AM.
NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HIYAMA-SAN.
OH, AREN'T YOU TANIGAWA-SAN? LONG TIME NO SEE.
AND NOW YOU'RE KOUSUKE'S LAWYER! SMALL WORLD!
YOU'VE MADE QUITE A NAME FOR YOURSELF!
IT'S BEEN WHAT... 20 YEARS, HASN'T IT?
I...I HAD MY USUAL...
I ALWAYS DRINK DARJEELING
ASK HER WHAT TEA SHE HAD.

HE'S SLEAZY EVER SINCE HE WAS YOUNG I'M NOT SURPRISED HE BECAME A LAWYER
HE'S A MONEY-GRUBBING CON MAN
HE'S TRYING TO GET 50,000,000 YEN OUT OF KOUSUKE FOR SOME "INVESTMENT"
THAT'S THE BACK MARGIN FROM THE DEVELOPER

IT MUST BE TANIGAWA WHO KILLED THE REALTOR

HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET A HOLD ON MY MONEY!

AHA! SHE HAS KNOWN HIM FOR A LONG TIME...!

...I GIVE UP.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO DID IT.
EVERYONE SUSPECTS SOMEONE ELSE...
...AND EVERYONE SEEMS TO HAVE A MOTIVE.

SO WHO'S THE KILLER ...?!
YOU HAVE?!
YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET?

R-really?!
AND ONLY ONE OF THE THREE FITS THE "CONDITIONS" TO BE THE KILLER.
...YOU'LL HAVE THREE PEOPLE LEFT.
IF YOU LOGICALLY ELIMINATE THE SUSPECTS ONE BY ONE ...
WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHO IT IS WITHOUT ME TELLING YOU.
GATHER ALL THE SUSPECTS AND WE'LL FIND OUT WHO OUR KILLER IS.
File.86 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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FILE 87
A HOUSE WITH THE SMELL OF DEATH
POISON
If you present the facts logically, you'll corner the killer and leave no choice but to confess
I DON'T EVEN KNOW...
INSPECTOR... DO YOU REALLY THINK I CAN MAKE THE KILLER CONFESS?
OKAY... I'LL TRY.
Sigh!
Don't worry, Ayaki. This is nothing compared to your past cases.
HERE GOES ...
HOW DARE THAT GIRL TREAT ME AS A SUSPECT!
MESS...? IS THAT ALL YOU THINK THIS IS? A MAN IS DEAD, FOR CHRISSAKES!
I HAVE TO AGREE WITH YOU. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
JEEZ... WHAT A MESS.

TH-THREE?
CONSIDERING THE FACTS I GATHERED FROM MY QUESTIONING...
...I'VE NARROWED THE SUSPECTS DOWN TO THREE PEOPLE.
WHO WOULD THAT BE...?
THE KILLER...?
The key to this case is tea.
LET'S GO THROUGH THIS LOGICALLY.
WHO THE TEA WAS MEANT FOR AND WHO ACTUALLY RECEIVED IT

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!
I'M GOING TO LAY OUT THE FACTS IN THIS CASE...AND WHEN I'M DONE, THERE WILL BE NO DOUBT WHO THE KILLER IS!

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S MY FAMILY TRADITION TO WELCOME OUR GUESTS WITH TEA.
FIRST, IT WAS EMILY WHO SUGGESTED EVERYONE HAVE TEA.
UH... RIGHT
AND SAKURAKO WENT TO MAKE THE TEA, RIGHT?
EVERYONE ELSE JUST TOUCHED THE CUP THEY WERE HANDED.
THEN IT WAS KOUSUKE, AYAKO, AND YUKIE WHO HANDED OUT THE TEA THAT SAKURAKO MADE.
AND TANIGAWA-SAN DRANK THE TEA THAT YOROZUYA WAS SUPPOSED TO DRINK, BY MISTAKE.
YES.
AM I RIGHT?
SO, YOROZUYA DRANK EMILY'S TEA AND DIED.

IF SO...
YES?
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
ARE WE AGREED?
!
WHAT? WHY?!
IT'S SIMPLE.
THE QUESTION IS "WHEN DID THE KILLER PUT THE POISON IN THE TEA?"
D-DO YOU THINK I DID IT, AYAKO?!
IT *MUST* HAVE BEEN HER WHO PUT IN THE POISON!
BUT SAKURAKO CLEARLY HAD THE BEST OPPORTUNITY!
THAT CLEARS SAKURAKO.

YOU CAN'T GAMBLE WHEN IT COMES TO MURDER
OF COURSE ♡
THEREFORE, SAKURAKO, WHO COULDN'T CHOOSE THE TARGET, IS CLEAR
Phew
SO, SAKURAKO DIDN'T KNOW WHICH ONE OF THE EARL GRAYS EMILY WAS GOING TO DRINK...
YOU ALL USE A DIFFERENT CUP ACCORDING TO THE TEA BUT...
...NO ONE KNOWS WHO USES WHICH CUP.

BECAUSE...
...SHE DIDN'T HAND OUT THE TEA...
...AND THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE EARL GRAY ON THE TABLE!
EVEN IF SHE HAD THE BEST CHANCE
...SHE COULDN'T PUT POISON IN TO KILL ONE SPECIFIC PERSON.

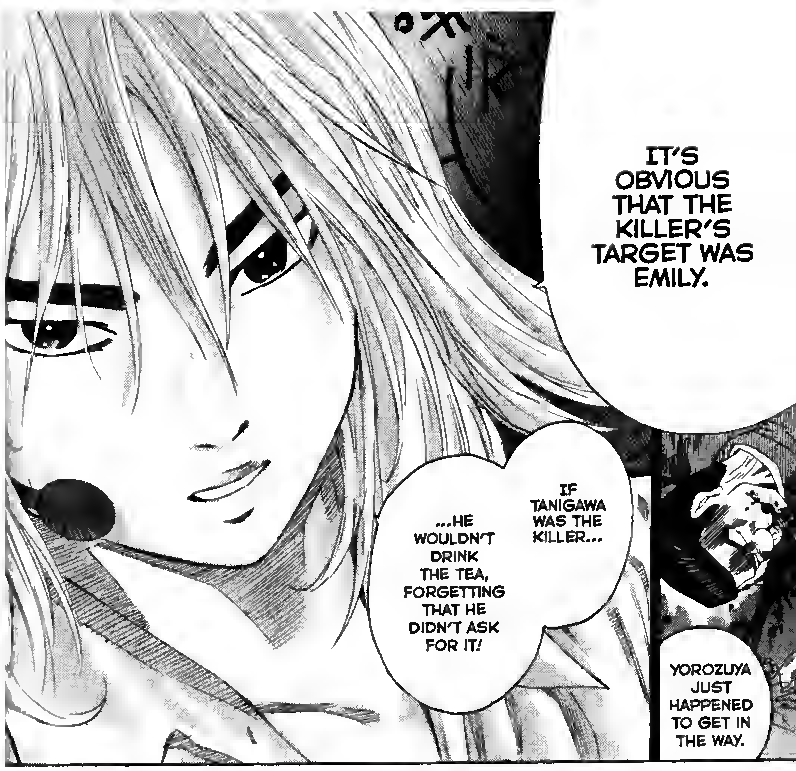
...I WANTED TO SEE THE HOUSE.
THE ONLY REASON YOROZUYA CAME HERE WAS BECAUSE ...
OH, WE'RE ONLY EN-GAIRO.
CONGRATULATIONS
...HE AND YOROZUYA MET HERE TOTALLY BY COINCIDENCE
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR TANIGAWA TO KNOW HE WAS COMING AND PREPARE THE POISON.

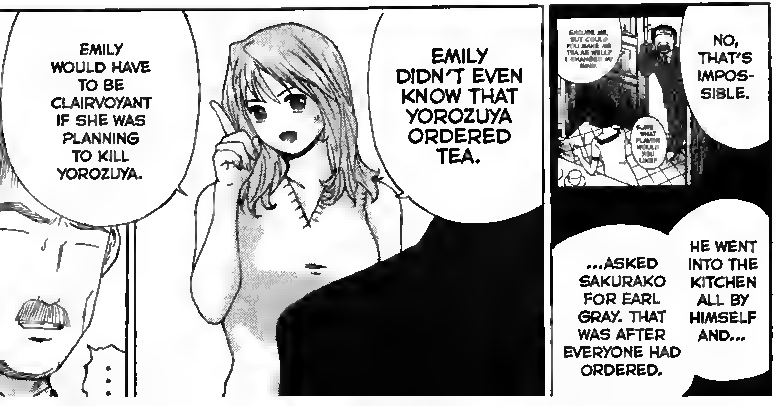
BESIDES, EVEN IF WE ASSUME TANIGAWA HAD A MOTIVE...
AND BY THE WAY...
— I DON'T APPRECIATE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME OUT TO BE THE KILLER, EMILY!

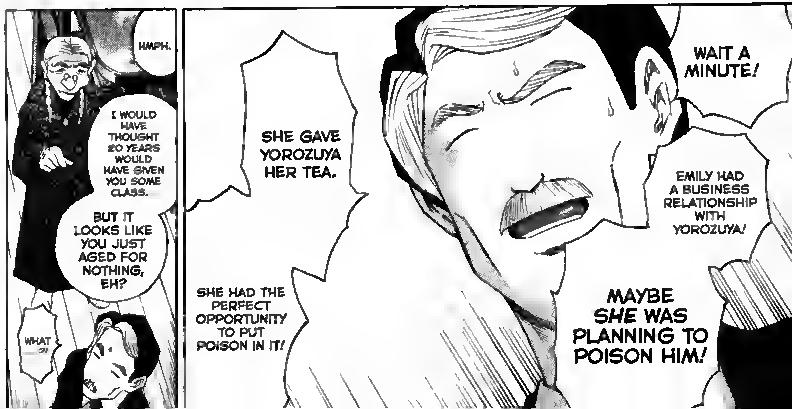
ARE YOU SURE?
HOW DO WE KNOW HE DOES NOT HAVE SOME SECRET MOTIVE?

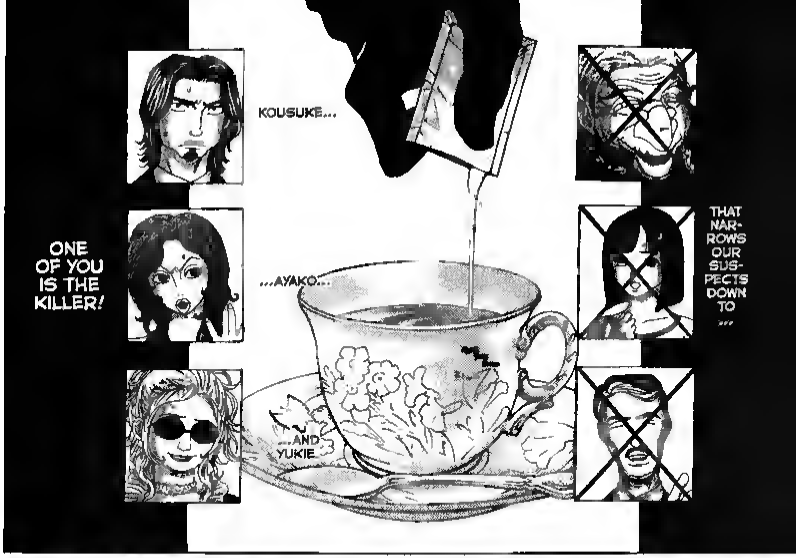
TANIGAWA-SAN IS CLEAR, TOO.
Phew
HE HAS NO MOTIVE TO MURDER YOROZUYA.

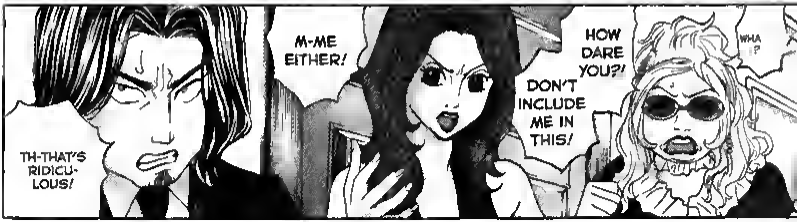
MURDERERS TRY TO AVOID UNEXPECTED SITUATIONS...
...SO EMILY, WHO ESCAPED FROM DEATH BY GIVING HER TEA TO YOROZUYA...
...CAN'T BE THE KILLER, EITHER!

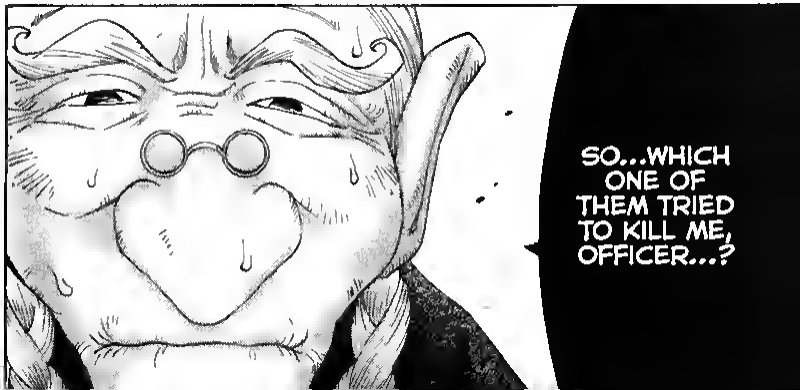

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE KILLER'S TARGET WAS EMILY.
IF TANIGAWA WAS THE KILLER...
...HE WOULDN'T DRINK THE TEA, FORGETTING THAT HE DIDN'T ASK FOR IT!
YOROZUYA JUST HAPPENED TO GET IN THE WAY.


EMILY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THAT YOROZUYA ORDERED TEA.
EMILY WOULD HAVE TO BE CLAIRVOYANT IF SHE WAS PLANNING TO KILL YOROZUYA.
NO, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
HE WENT INTO THE KITCHEN ALL BY HIMSELF AND...
...ASKED SAKURAKO FOR EARL GRAY. THAT WAS AFTER EVERYONE HAD ORDERED.

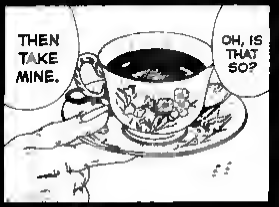

HMPH.
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT 20 YEARS WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU SOME CLASS.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU JUST AGED FOR NOTHING, EH?
WHAT DO...
SHE GAVE YOROZUYA HER TEA.
SHE HAD THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO PUT POISON IN IT!
WAIT A MINUTE!
EMILY HAD A BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH YOROZUYA!
MAYBE SHE WAS PLANNING TO POISON HIM!


KOUSUKE...
ONE OF YOU IS THE KILLER!
...AYAKO...
THAT NARROWS OUR SUSPECTS DOWN TO...
...AND YUKIE...


TH-THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
M-ME EITHER!
DON'T INCLUDE ME IN THIS!
HOW DARE YOU?!
WHAT?


SO...WHICH ONE OF THEM TRIED TO KILL ME, OFFICER...?

FIRST OF ALL, HOW DID YOROZUYA HAPPEN TO DRINK THE POISONED TEA?

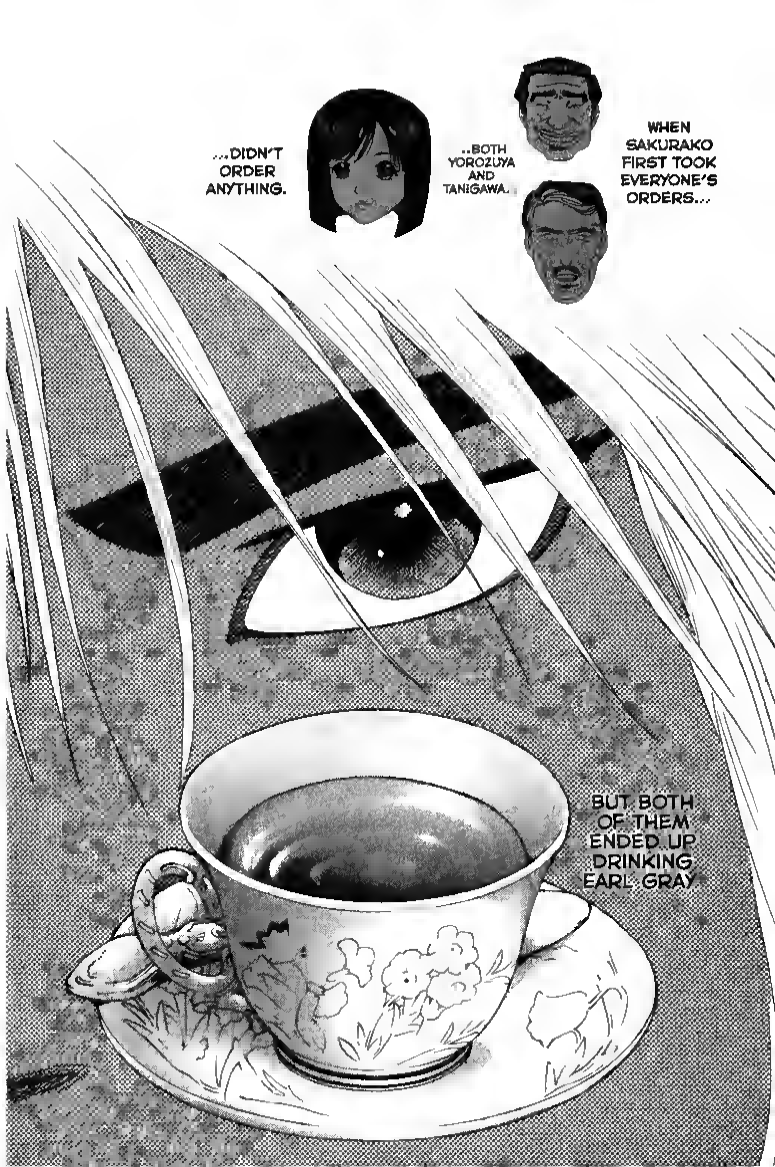


YOROZUYA ONLY HAD TEA...

...BECAUSE EMILY GAVE HIM HERS.

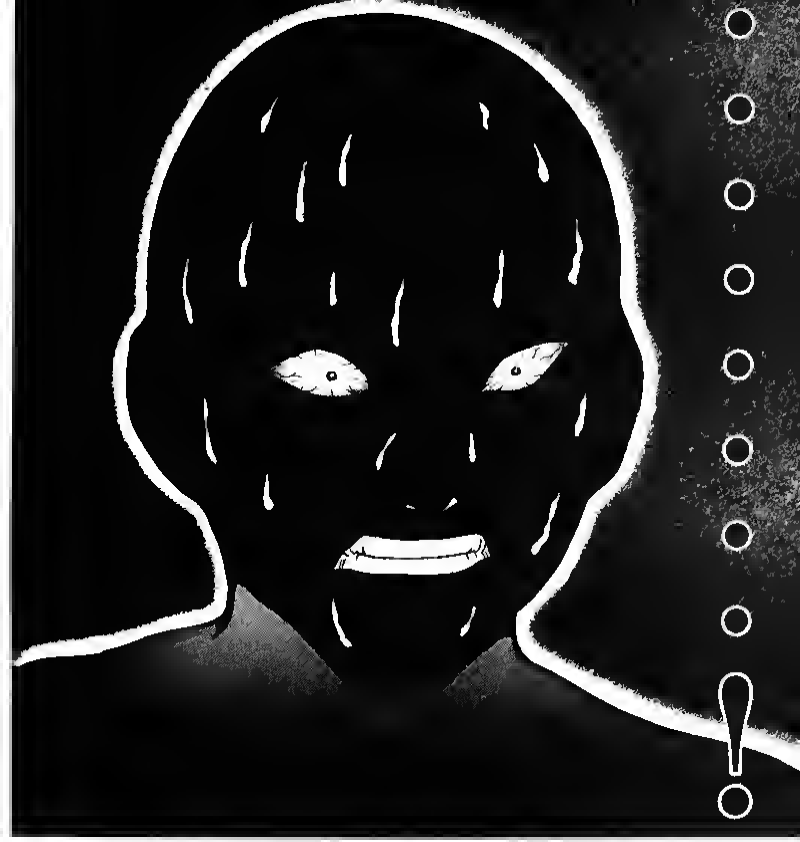
...THE EARL GRAY THAT YOROZUYA ORDERED.

BECAUSE THE KILLER KNEW TANIGAWA'S HABITS.
WHY...?!


WHEN SAKURAKO FIRST TOOK EVERYONE'S ORDERS...
..BOTH YOROZUYA AND TANIGAWA...
...DIDN'T ORDER ANYTHING.
BUT BOTH OF THEM ENDED UP DRINKING EARL GRAY.

WHAT?
WH...
WHY DID YOU DRINK THE EARL GRAY THAT YOU DIDN'T ORDER?
YOU SEE...
I TOLD SAKURAKO THAT I DIDN'T WANT TEA
BUT BECAUSE KOUSUKE KNOWS THAT I LIKE EARL GRAY...
...OH, THAT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!
...HE PLACED THE TEA IN FRONT OF ME.
TANIGAWA-SAN TOLD ME...
THAT'S WHY HE DRANK IT BY MISTAKE...

!!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS, EVERYONE?
...SAW TWO CUPS OF EARL GRAY, AND...
...THOUGHT ONE WAS FOR EMILY...
...AND THE OTHER ONE WAS FOR TANIGAWA. HE SIMPLY THOUGHT THAT MAYBE TANIGAWA HAD CHANGED HIS MIND AND ORDERED IT.
THE KILLER MADE A SIMPLE MISTAKE FROM HIS FAMILIARITY WITH TANIGAWA.
THE KILLER KNEW WHAT TANIGAWA LIKES...



ACCORDING TO SAKURAKO'S TESTIMONY...
...IT WAS ONLY YESTERDAY WHEN YOROZUYA DISCOVERED EARL GRAY.
...BECAUSE YOROZUYA DIDN'T SEEM LIKE SOMEONE WHO'D DRINK SOMETHING AS SOPHISTICATED AS EARL GRAY.
THE REASON THE KILLER THOUGHT LIKE THAT WAS PROBABLY

AS WE CAN SEE FROM TANIGAWA'S TESTIMONY...
...THE KILLER WAS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH TANIGAWA'S FONDNESS FOR THIS TEA.
THAT'S WHY THE KILLER ASSUMED THAT THE OTHER EARL GRAY WAS FOR TANIGAWA.
THAT LEAP IN LOGIC WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE MEETING TANIGAWA FOR THE FIRST TIME.
THEREFORE, THE KILLER IS...

CARE TO TELL US WHY?
...YOU KOUSUKE HIYAMA!
...WH-WHAT A BUNCH OF BULLSHIT...

I...I DID HAND OUT THE TEA...
...BUT... BUT...
I...I DIDN'T TRY TO POISON GRANDMA!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
CHECK THE FINGERPRINTS! YOU'LL SEE!
IT'S NOT ME!
YOUR FINGERPRINTS WON'T BE ON THE POISONED TEA.
YOU THOUGHT OF THAT BEFOREHAND
I NEVER EVEN TOUCHED THAT POISONED CUP!
YOU'VE GOT NO PROOF!
THE POISONED TEA IS THE MURDER WEAPON. HANDING IT OUT YOURSELF...
...WOULD BE EXTREMELY INCRIMINATING. YOU KNEW THIS.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...

YOU LEFT THE POISONED TEA FOR YOUR GRANDMA TO TAKE.
THAT'S WHY YOU TOOK THE EARL GRAY WITHOUT THE POISON AND HANDED IT OUT QUICKLY
A CLASSIC BAIT AND SWITCH.
file.87 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
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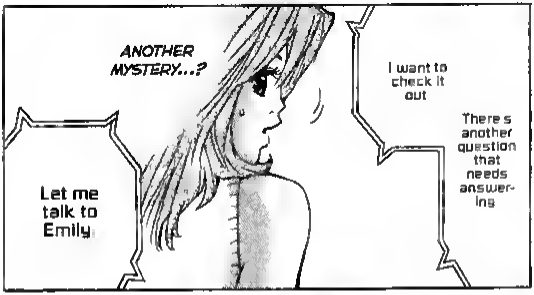
IT WASN'T ME! I NEVER EVEN TOUCHED
N... NO, GRANDMA!
YOU'RE SUCH A STUPID BOY, KOUSUKE.
GRAND-MA...
N... NO!
IT WASN'T ME...!
FILE'88
A HOUSE WITH THE SMELL OF DEATH
LOOSE ENDS
THAT WAS THEIR FIRST MISTAKE.
YOUR PARENTS SACRIFICED SO MUCH, SENDING YOU TO THE BEST SCHOOLS ..
ENOUGH LIES. IT'S OVER, KOUSUKE.
I LOVE YOU, GRANDMA! I WOULD NEVER .
NO...YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME...
YOU GREW UP SPOILED, SPENDING THEIR MONEY AND NEVER TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOURSELF
THE KILLER IS THE ONE WHO HANDED GRANDMA THE TEA!
WHEN THEY DIED IN THAT CAR ACCIDENT, YOU SQUANDERED YOUR INHERITANCE BY GAMBLING IT AWAY

!!
I TOOK THE TEA YOU'D POISONED YOURSELF ...
...AND GAVE IT TO YOROZUYA. YOU KILLED AN INNOCENT [illegible]!
YOU MAKE ME SICK.
IT'S OVER, KOU-SUKE.
WHEN THE POLICE EXAMINE YOU, THEY'LL FIND THE RESIDUAL POISON ON YOUR HANDS.
NOT TO MENTION I THINK WE'LL FIND THE LEFTOVER POISON ON YOUR PERSON.

...YOU COULD HAVE ASKED!
I WAS HARD ON YOU AND AYAKO BECAUSE ...
...I WANTED YOU TWO TO LEARN SOME RESPONSIBILITY!
IF YOU WANTED MY MONEY THAT MUCH...
...I... G-GRAND-MA ...
YOU WANTED MY MONEY SO BAD YOU WERE WILLING TO KILL FOR IT!
AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOU...!
I'D HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO GIVE IT TO YOU!
...I-I'M SORRY.
GRANDMA... I'M REALLY SORRY...!
...I'LL TURN MYSELF IN.
IT...IT WAS ME...

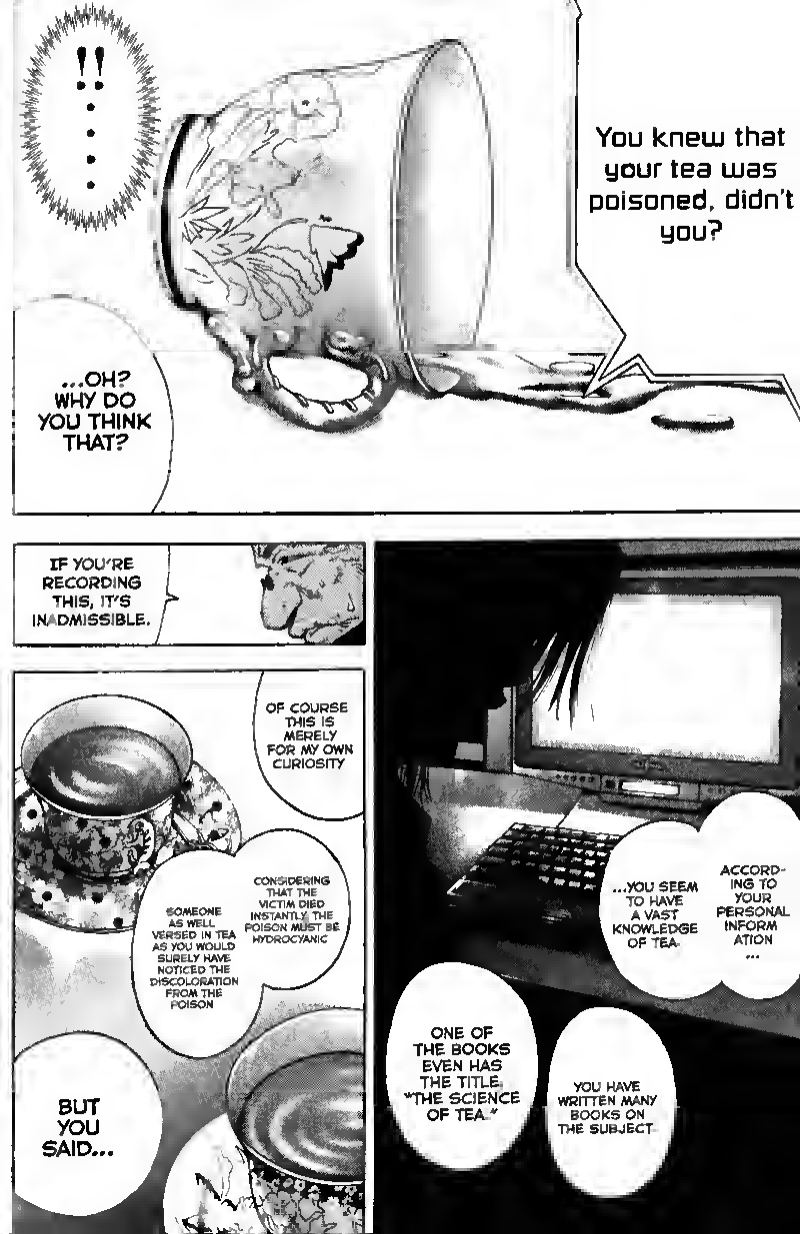
NOT JUST YET.
THERE'S ONE MORE THING.
What?!


ANOTHER MYSTERY...?
I want to check it out
There's another question that needs answering
Let me talk to Emily

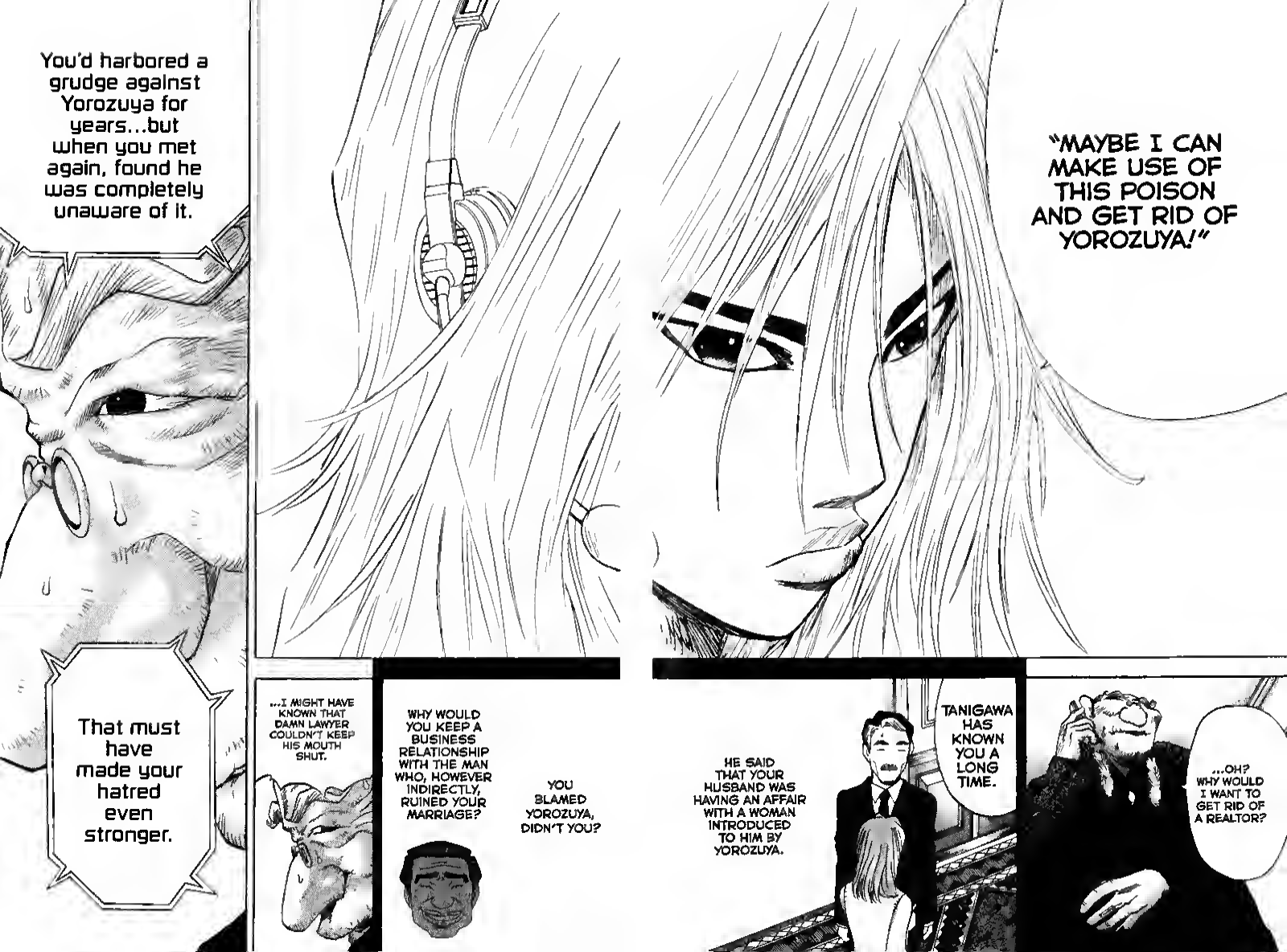
WHAT...? TO EMILY?
Yes. This one's a little beyond you. Let me handle it
THIS IS CERTAINLY A NEW ONE ON ME!

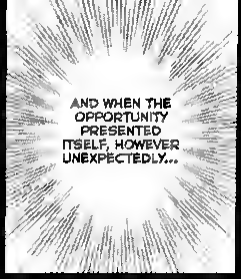
IT'S FINISHED...
CASE CLOSED, INSPECTOR ...

OH? A-ALL RIGHT.
EMILY? THE INSPECTOR WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU.
EMILY? THIS IS INSPECTOR MINAMO FROM THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.
SPECIAL UNIT A.
Let's clear the air.
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID.
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, DON'T YOU?
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU INSPECTOR?
Emily you need to be straight with me
?!


!!
You knew that your tea was poisoned, didn't you?
...OH? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
IF YOU'RE RECORDING THIS, IT'S INADMISSIBLE.
OF COURSE THIS IS MERELY FOR MY OWN CURIOSITY
CONSIDERING THAT THE VICTIM DIED INSTANTLY, THE POISON MUST BE HYDROCYANIC
SOMEONE AS WELL VERSED IN TEA AS YOU WOULD SURELY HAVE NOTICED THE DISCOLORATION FROM THE POISON
BUT YOU SAID...
...YOU SEEM TO HAVE A VAST KNOWLEDGE OF TEA.
ACCORDING TO YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION ...
YOU HAVE WRITTEN MANY BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT.
ONE OF THE BOOKS EVEN HAS THE TITLE, "THE SCIENCE OF TEA."

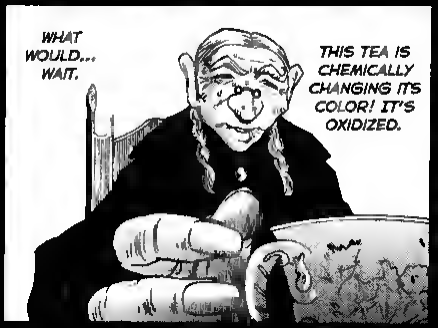
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS TEA AS WELL AS YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE MISSED SO OBVIOUS A PROBLEM, EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE EXACT NATURE OF THE DISCOLORATION
EVEN IF IT WASN'T POISON IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE TEA WHEN THE COLOR HAD CHANGED SO DRASTICALLY
...AND OFFERED IT TO YOUR GUEST.
IT'S RUDE TO LEAVE MY GUEST WITHOUT TEA WHEN EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY IS DRINKING IT—
QUITE THE THINKER, AREN'T YOU??
SINCE WE'RE BEING SO FORTHCOMING WHY DON'T YOU SPELL OUT YOUR IMPLICATION INSPECTOR?
DON'T YOU AGREE?
ONE WOULD NEVER ALLOW SUCH A GROSS MISSTEP IN ETIQUETTE, PARTICULARLY TO A GUEST.
BUT YOU COULD SEE THE REASON THAT SOMEONE WOULD WANT TO POISON YOU
AT THAT POINT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHO HAD DONE IT.
THEN YOU SAW YOUR OPPORTUNITY, AND THOUGHT ...
YOU KNEW THE TEA HAD BEEN POISONED.


You'd harbored a grudge against Yorozuya for years...but when you met again, found he was completely unaware of it.
That must have made your hatred even stronger.
...I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THAT DAMN LAWYER COULDN'T KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT.
WHY WOULD YOU KEEP A BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MAN WHO, HOWEVER INDIRECTLY, RUINED YOUR MARRIAGE?
YOU BLAMED YOROZUYA, DIDN'T YOU?
"MAYBE I CAN MAKE USE OF THIS POISON AND GET RID OF YOROZUYA!"
HE SAID THAT YOUR HUSBAND WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH A WOMAN INTRODUCED TO HIM BY YOROZUYA.
TANIGAWA HAS KNOWN YOU A LONG TIME.
...OH? WHY WOULD I WANT TO GET RID OF A REALTOR?



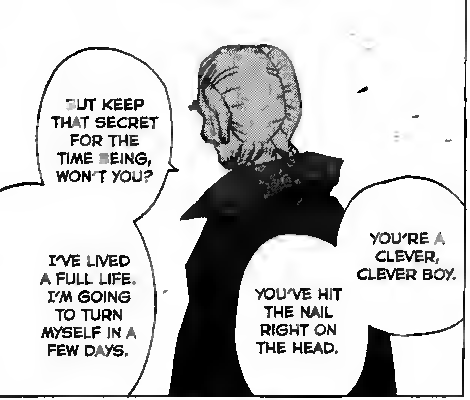
KEEPING HIM CLOSE, YOU AWAITED AN OPPORTUNITY.

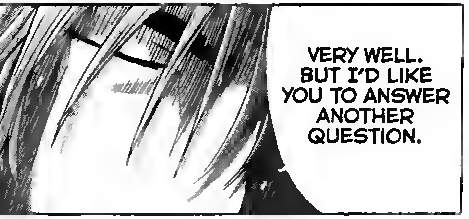
YOU WANTED REVENGE, SO YOU ENTERED INTO A BUSINESS CONTRACT WITH YOROZUYA REGARDING YOUR PROPERTY.



THAT LAWYER... COULD HE BE OF THIS?

...AND HAVE SAKURAKO MAKE ANOTHER ONE, IT'LL LOOK NATURAL.
GOOD! IF I SPILL MY TEA NOW...
OH, I DON'T MIND IT. HA HA HA...
WE'RE ONE TEA SHORT BECAUSE OF ME...
I DO MIND IT.
IT'S RUDE TO LEAVE MY GUEST WITHOUT TEA WHEN EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY IS DRINKING IT...
WAIT A MINUTE.
THIS LOWCLASS WHORE-MONGER DRINKS EARL GRAY...?
EARL GRAY?
MY TEA MIGHT BE POISONED... AND IF I MAKE HIM DRINK IT...
WHAT KIND OF TEA DO YOU LIKE, YOROZUYA-SAN?
OH, I ASKED FOR EARL GRAY.
SAKURAKO, MAKE ONE MORE.
YES, RIGHT AWAY...
THEN TAKE MINE.
OH, IS THAT SO?
OH, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL TWIST OF FATE!


BUT KEEP THAT SECRET FOR THE TIME BEING, WON'T YOU?
I'VE LIVED A FULL LIFE. I'M GOING TO TURN MYSELF IN A FEW DAYS.
YOU'VE HIT THE NAIL RIGHT ON THE HEAD.
YOU'RE A CLEVER, CLEVER BOY.

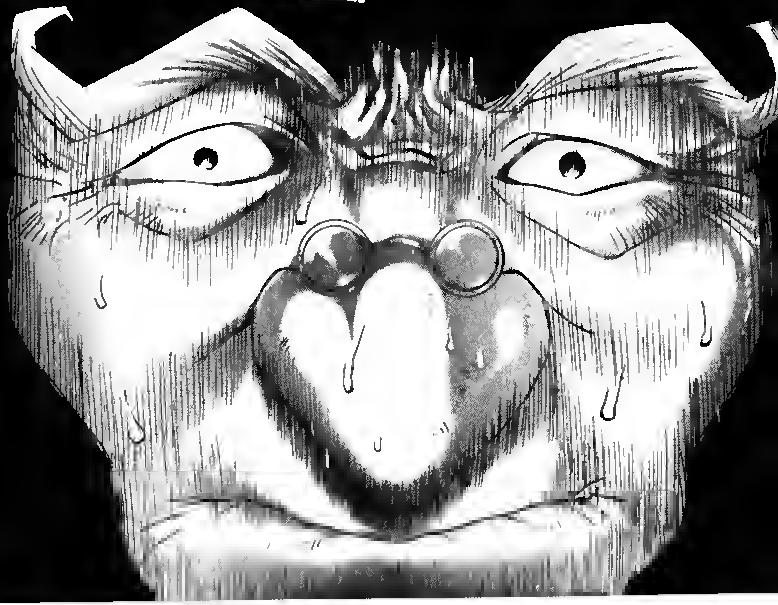

VERY WELL. BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO ANSWER ANOTHER QUESTION.

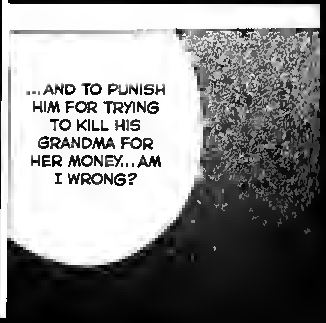
YES?
It's about the real reason that you wanted to rent your huge mansion with a big yard for only 80,000 yen.
!!

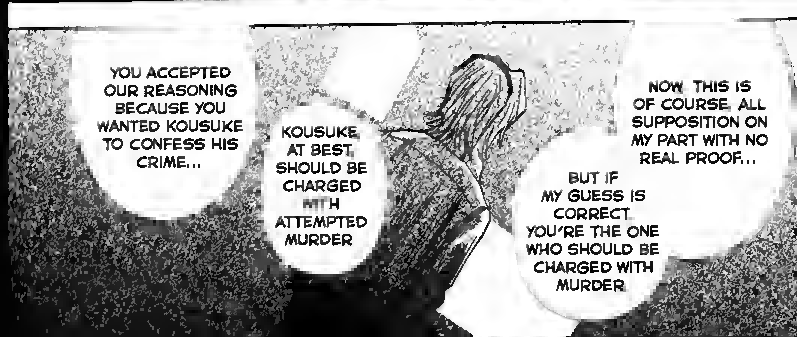
SMACK
SMACK

DO
DO

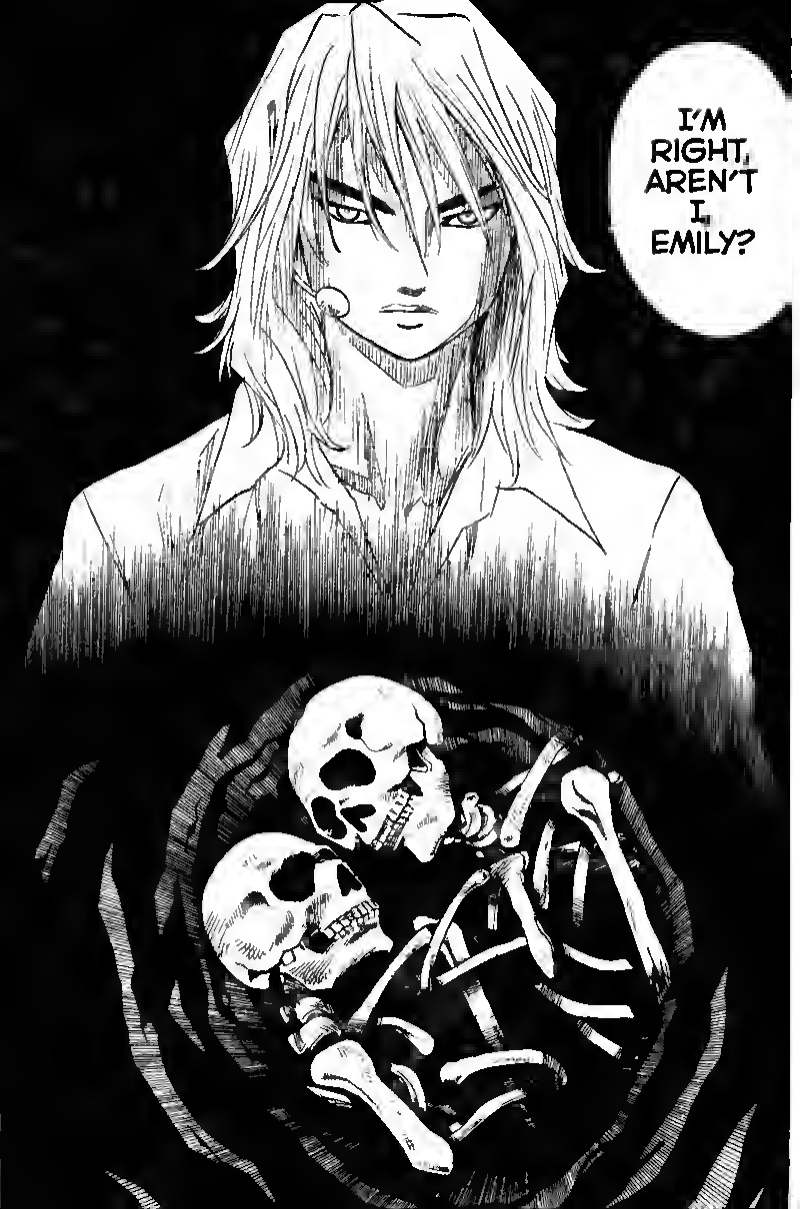
I'LL HELP MYSELF THEN...




...AND TO PUNISH HIM FOR TRYING TO KILL HIS GRANDMA FOR HER MONEY... AM I WRONG?


YOU ACCEPTED OUR REASONING BECAUSE YOU WANTED KOUSUKE TO CONFESS HIS CRIME...
KOUSUKE, AT BEST, SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER
BUT IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH MURDER
NOW, THIS IS OF COURSE, ALL SUPPOSITION ON MY PART WITH NO REAL PROOF...

I think the reason you recognized the use of poison in the tea is because you had once used a similar plot to rid yourself of your husband and his mistress.
That's why you couldn't sell the land or the house, even if your grandchildren were financially in trouble.
You buried them somewhere on your land, didn't you?
But how did you get rid of the bodies, I wonder?

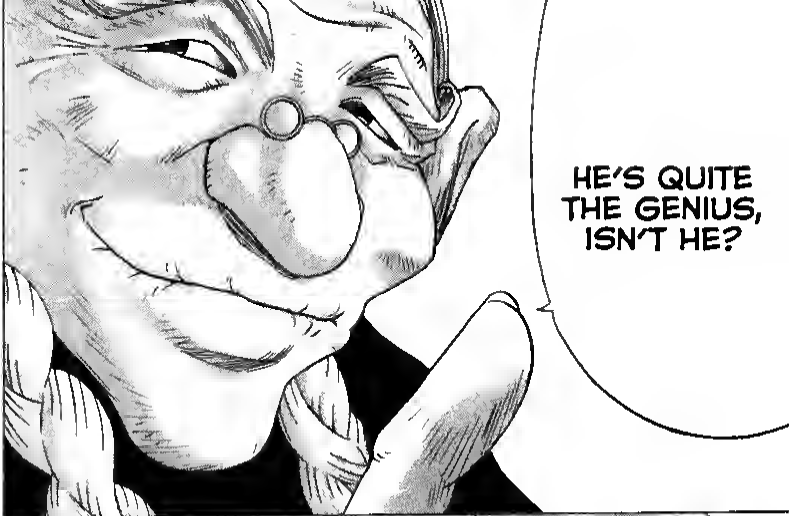

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I, EMILY?

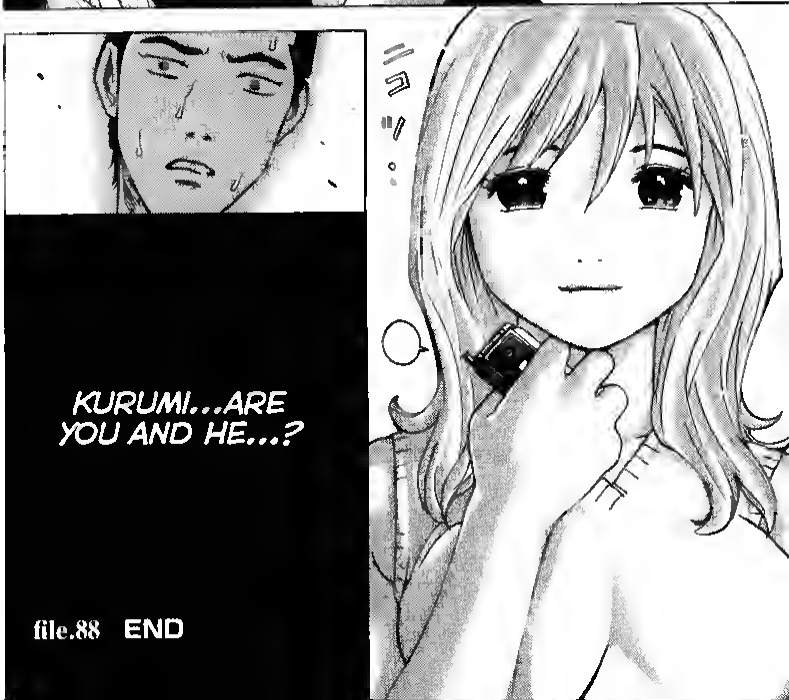
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE NOW, BOY.
I THINK THEY WENT ABROAD OR SOMETHING.
MY HUSBAND DISAPPEARED WITH HIS MISTRESS AND I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE.
THAT'S MY STORY...I'M STICKIN' TO IT!
AND I'M NOT GOING TO SELL THIS LAND.
AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE... EVEN IF I GO TO PRISON...
...I WON'T LET ANYONE DIG MY YARD UP.

I'M NOT GOING TO BLAME AN 80-YEAR-OLD WOMAN FOR A CRIME THAT HAPPENED 20 YEARS AGO.
PARTICULARLY WHEN YOUR CURRENT CRIME WILL PUT YOU AWAY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
YOU'LL HAVE A LITTLE TIME TO THINK ABOUT HOW YOUR BELOVED GRANDCHILD TRIED TO KILL YOU IN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY YOU DID YOUR HUSBAND.
...I SEE.
WELL, YOU'VE ANSWERED MY QUESTIONS.
THAT...IS PROBABLY WORSE PUNISHMENT THAN PRISON.
...

OUR CONVER-SATION'S OVER...
...HERE, OFFICER.
UM...
WHAT DID INSPECTOR HIMURO ASK YOU ABOUT...?
...
...Just some non-sense
Ask him yourself if you want to know

.....?
UH... OKAY...
Yes?
BY THE WAY, YOUR BOSS...


HE'S QUITE THE GENIUS, ISN'T HE?


KURUMI...ARE YOU AND HE...?
file.88 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
Manga-Sketchbook not so proudly presents
Remote
Where ugly art and pointless fanservice combine!

http://www.manga-sketchbook.org
#Manga Sketchbook@IrcHighway

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT HAS COST HIM HIS ABILITY TO... FEEL...

I NEVER LEAVE THIS ROOM... ACTUALLY, I CAN'T. EVER.

...THAT SOMEHOW, YOU CAN HELP MASTER KOZABURO!
SINCE WE FIRST MET, I'VE HAD A FEELING...!
...AND LITERALLY, SECLUDED HIMSELF IN THAT DARK BASEMENT.
SINCE HE'S BEEN UNABLE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE AT ALL
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KURUMI...
YOU CAN...

FINAL CHAPTER: MARATHON GIRL

...
SHE ALWAYS TALKS ABOUT HOW GREAT THAT HIMURO IS...
SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT WITH KURUMI! I CAN FEEL IT!
BEEP
BEEP
IF SHE DIDN'T LOVE ME, SHE WOULDN'T GO LOOK FOR A HOUSE WITH ME, RIGHT?
I'M HER FIANCÉ, DAMMIT!
NO, NO! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
SHIT!
BEEP
GRRRR
SHIT! SHIT!
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, OTHERWISE THAT HIMURO WILL TAKE MY...
IT'S MY BOSS, INSPECTOR HIMURO!
THE ONE WHO FIGURED OUT IS A MILLION TIMES SMARTER THAN ME.
BEEP
BEEP
HM?

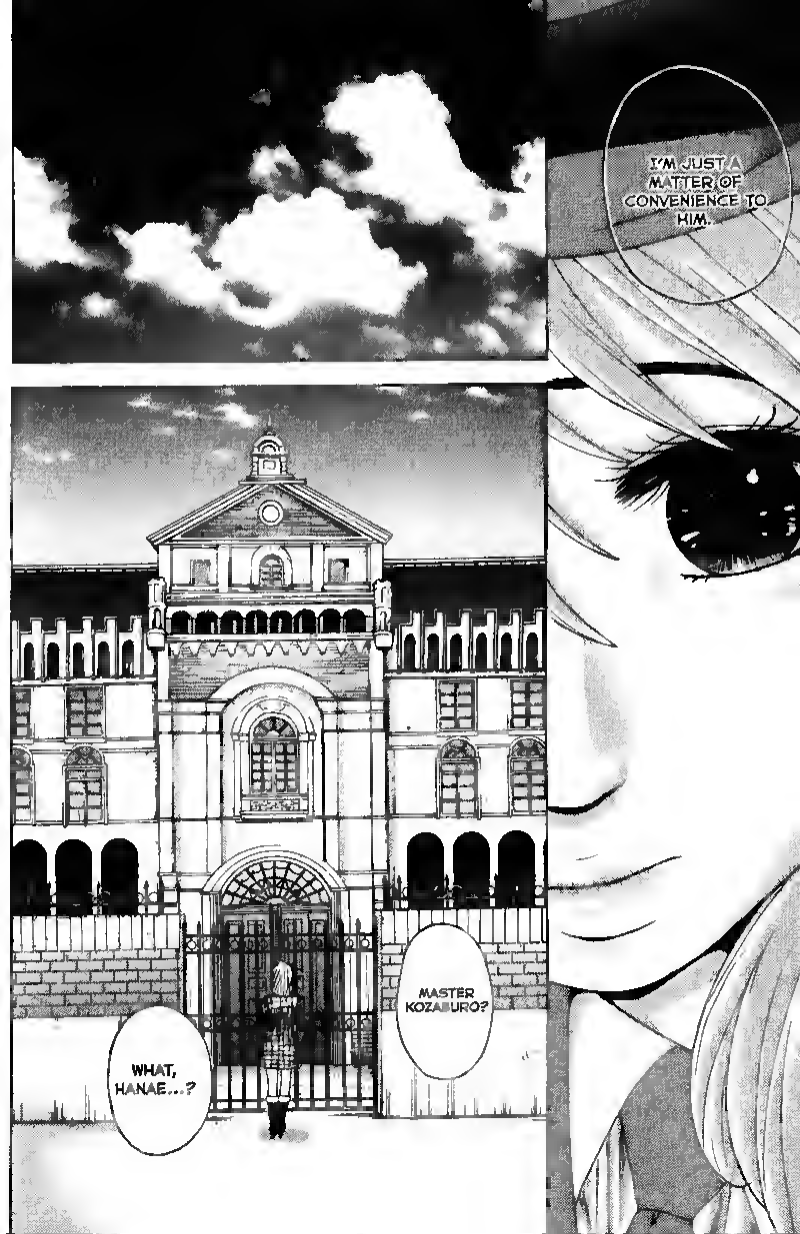
Hi, It's Nakamura from the Central Hotel, Bridal Department.
H-HELLO?
KURUMI?
OH... H-HI...
WHAT...?!

WHY ARE YOU STILL GIVING OUT PARKING TICKETS WITH US...?
WHAT? WELL...
I STILL HAVE THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF, LIKE MONEY AND STUFF...
SO...
...I HEAR THAT INSPECTOR HIMURO IS PRETTY DREAMY, EH?
NO WAY.
THAT GUY NEVER LEAVES THE BASEMENT, I HEAR. WHY WOULD SHE DUMP HER FIANCÉ FOR THAT CREEP?
BREEP
BREEP
OH...IT MUST BE THE INSPECTOR!
Y...YEAH. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KAORU-CHAN?
SENPAI, HOW ARE YOU AND MR. ILLEGAL PARKING DOING?
WHAT?
AYAKI HERE!
HELLO?
...OH.
IT'S YOU, SHINGO...
I MEAN, WHO WOULD PREFER A GUY LIKE THAT...?
YEAH, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO UNIT A...WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO GET MARRIED AND QUIT?
DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU REALLY...
SHE SOUNDS DISAPPOINTED...
SEE?

YOU'LL ONLY GET HURT IF YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH A GUY LIKE THAT, KURUMI...!
DON'T BE STUPID!
WHAAAAAAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
BIP
WHAT HAPPENED, SENPAI?
GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS?
OF COURSE IT'S GOOD NEWS
IT'S FOUR HER BOY FRIEND YOU KNOW!
Y-YEAH, OKAY.
LET'S DO IT THEN.
—YEAH—
SURE...THE EARLIER THE BETTER, OF COURSE...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL...
RIGHT, KURUMI...?

WE WERE ON THE HOTEL'S WAITING LIST FOR OUR WEDDING, AND THEY JUST HAD A CANCELLATION. LOOKS LIKE WE CAN HAVE OUR WEDDING CEREMONY MUCH EARLIER THAN WE EXPECTED.
OF COURSE IT'S GOOD NEWS.
...THANKS.
YEAH, IT'S SHORT NOTICE...BUT OUR WEDDING IS GOING TO BE IN THREE WEEKS.
WOW, YOU'RE FINALLY GOING TO BECOME A BRIDE! CONGRATULATIONS!
WHAAAAAT?
SO, YOU MEAN.
I AM HAPPY. SERIOUSLY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
OF COURSE I'M HAPPY.
WHAT?
HMM? YOU DON'T SOUND VERY HAPPY...

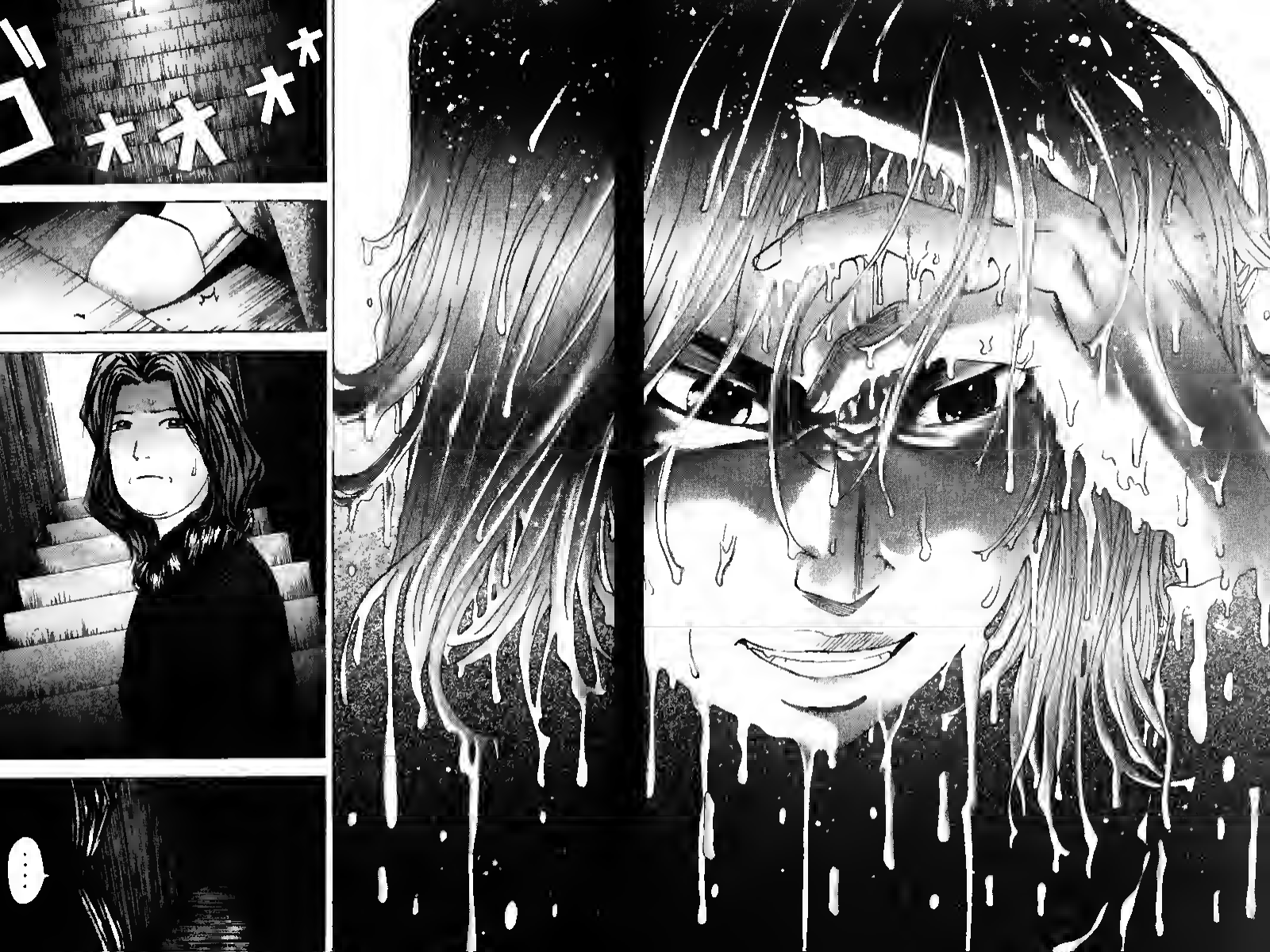
BUT ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
WHAT?!
LOOKS LIKE HE CHANGED HIS MIND...
....
BUT YOU'LL KEEP YOUR JOB AFTER YOU GET MARRIED, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH, COME ON!
I'M TALKING ABOUT INSPECTOR HIMURO.
NOW HE WANTS ME TO QUIT MY JOB WHEN WE GET MARRIED...
THAT'S WHAT MR. ILLEGAL PARKING WANTED, RIGHT?
HE DOESN'T CARE. IF I TELL HIM THAT I'M GETTING MARRIED AND QUITTING, HE'LL JUST SAY "GOOD! YOU WERE A PAIN IN THE NECK" WITH THAT EXPRESSIONLESS FACE OF HIS.
HE'LL JUST FIND A REPLACE-MENT.
PAIN IN THE NECK...?


I'M JUST A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE TO HIM.
MASTER KOZABURO?
WHAT, HANAE...?

TELL HER I'M BUSY.
MS. NAOMI SAKAKI IS HERE... AGAIN.
SHE TOLD KURUMI...THAT SHE WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
.....
WHY WOULD SHE SAY SUCH A THING?
...UM, MASTER KOZABURO?
WHAT?
I HEARD FROM KURUMI AFTER THE SCHOOL BOMBING CASE...
NAOMI SAID...
...WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW.
SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO BE FUNNY, I SUPPOSE.
.....
YOU THINK IT WAS A JOKE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T THINK...
...THAT SHE FEELS LIKE JOKING...
...WHEN IT COMES TO YOU, MASTER KOZABURO.
DON'T YOU THINK?
BECAUSE HER SISTER YUKA WAS...
HANAE!
!
...OH, I'M SORRY...

REALLY?
I THINK...
YOU MAY GO, HANAE.
YES, SIR...
I'M SORRY.
DID YOU TELL KURUMI ABOUT THAT INCIDENT...?
I DON'T NEED TO TELL HER!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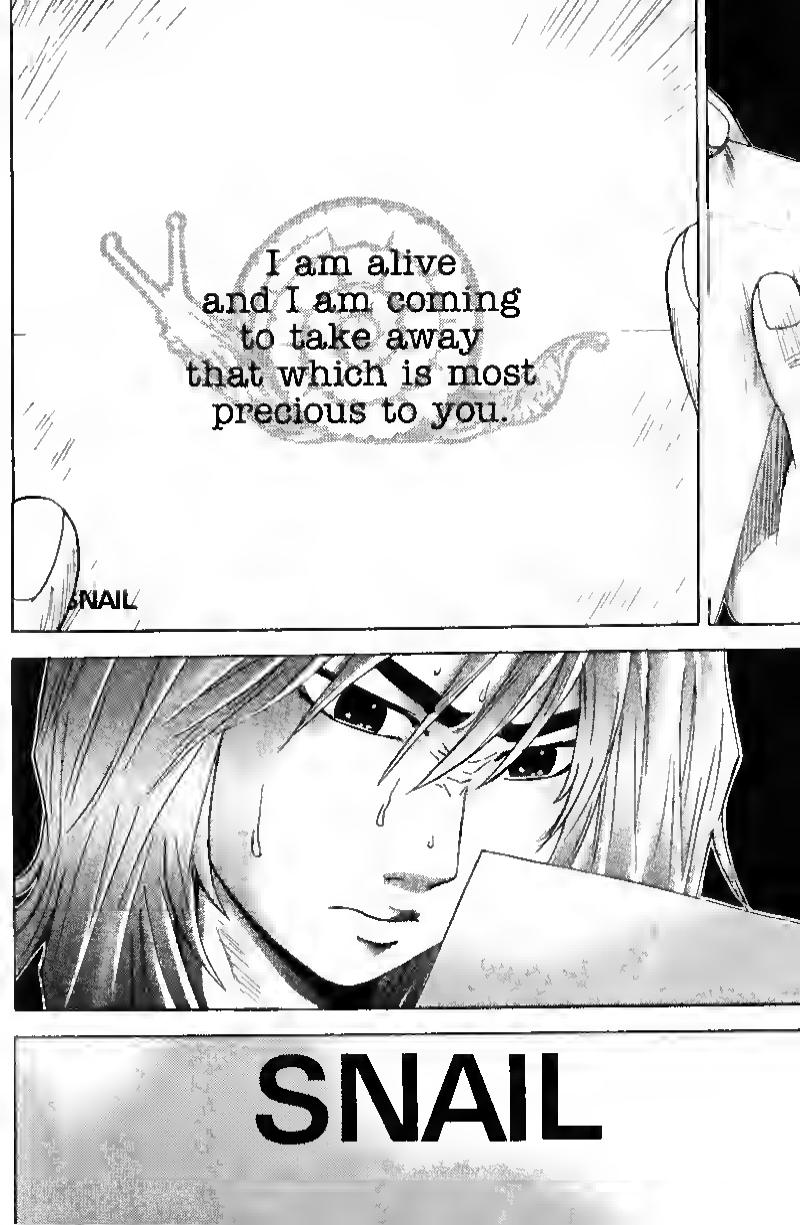
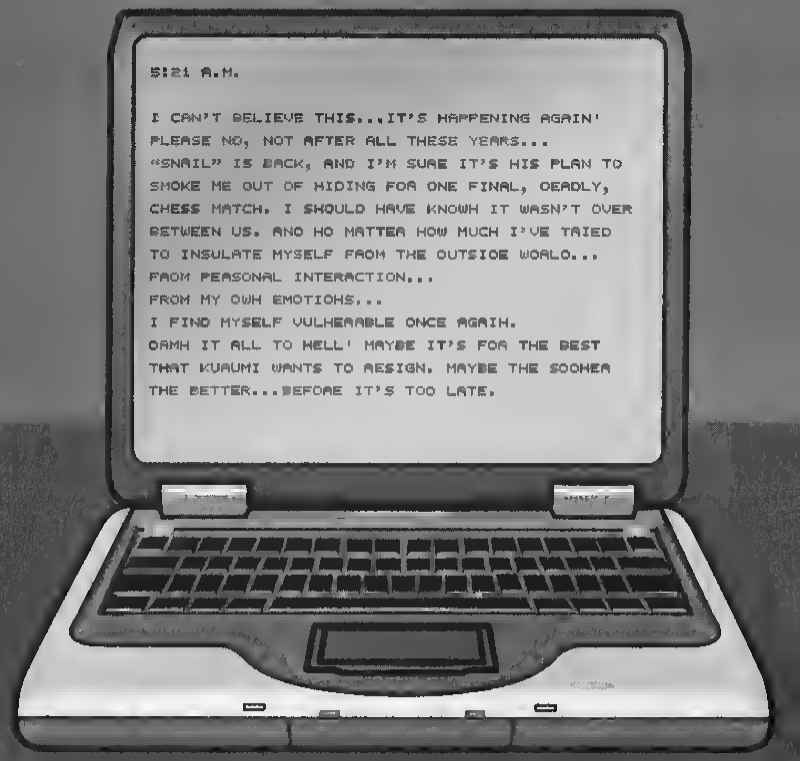
……

Resignation Notice
HIMURO CAN JUST...
Himuro
...FIND MY REPLACEMENT FOR UNIT A.
HE DOESN'T NEED ME!
...HE'S BEEN WORKING SO HARD SO I CAN STAY AT HOME WITH OUR CHILDREN...!
SHINGO'S JOB IS GOING WELL, AND...
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A HAPPY FAMILY WITH SHINGO, RIGHT?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, KURUMI?!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND, KURUMI!
DAM-MIT!

AYAKI-SAN?
ナイ
S-SAKAKI?
LONG TIME NO SEE. ♡
HUH?


I am alive
and I am coming
to take away
that which is most
precious to you.
SNAIL

FROM THE JOURNALS OF Kozaburo Himuro:


5:21 A.M.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
PLEASE NO, NOT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
"SNAIL" IS BACK, AND I'M SURE IT'S HIS PLAN TO
SMOKE ME OUT OF HIDING FOR ONE FINAL, DEADLY,
CHESS MATCH. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WASN'T OVER
BETWEEN US. AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I'VE TRIED
TO INSULATE MYSELF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
FROM PERSONAL INTERACTION...
FROM MY OWN EMOTIONS...
I FIND MYSELF VULNERABLE ONCE AGAIN.
DAMN IT ALL TO HELL! MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST
THAT KUAUMI WANTS TO RESIGN. MAYBE THE SOONER
THE BETTER...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

HIMURO AND AYAKI
ARE BACK ON THE CASE IN...

.remote.

VOLUME 10